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OPINION METER

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Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs is taking a second medical leave of absence in two years.

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Flaws cited in Tinian terminal design

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The completion of the new departure terminal at the West Tinian International Airport is facing new delays following complaints that its design has potential flaws that could affect the merging of the old and new wings to make it one general terminal.

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New House speaker meets with Senate president

Over soba and Spam for lunch, newly elected House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) met yesterday to discuss important bills that need to be

passed, vowing to work together for the sake of the CNMI and its people.

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'CNMI can minimize use of outside counsels'

- Fitial administration says review has been initiated
- Sablan: Taxpayers should not pay for Buckingham's legal representation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has been paying for private attorneys—up to \$200 an hour—more than for attorneys at the Office of the Attorney General and other government agencies who are mostly

paid \$23 to \$38 an hour.

The Fitial administration said yesterday it has started an assessment of expenses related to retaining outside counsel.

Former representative Tina Sablan, who filed with two others at least 18 Open Government

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

RIDING THE WAVE

Despite advisories against perilous waves and swells, surfers still got into the water fronting the Aquarius Hotel in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon. Inset shows the surf and swells almost obscuring from view one of the military ships on the Saipan lagoon. A strong cold front south of Japan has been creating a large area of gale force winds northwest of the Marianas, causing huge waves and swells that peaked yesterday. A high surf and small craft advisory remains in effect.

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Local

OVER SOBA FOR LUNCH

New House speaker meets with the Senate president

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From sharing soba and Spam for lunch to discussing important bills that need to be passed, newly elected House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) vowed yesterday to work together for the sake of the CNMI and its people.

"I want to start a good working relationship with the Senate," Cabrera said in an interview in his new office, formerly occupied by now Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Manglona also has high hopes that yesterday's meeting with the new speaker marks a new beginning for the 17th Legislature.

Cabrera said he was surprised that when he knocked on the

president's door, he was immediately invited to come in "without even asking who I was."

"I am not a stranger to them [senators]. I worked at the Legislative Bureau for years. I'm confident we can work as a team, and I want to visit them regularly," he added.

Cabrera, a third-generation elected official after his grandfather and father, will hold his



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Newly elected House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) talks to reporters inside his new office on Capital Hill.

first leadership meeting this morning since becoming speaker on Thursday. He said the 11 members who voted for him are part of the House leadership.

He said he will ask all his committee chairmen to prepare at least one bill from the Senate and one from the House to be placed on every session so that bills don't pile up.

Cabrera said he wants committee chairmen to identify bills in their committees that they think should be prioritized or need urgent action, especially those that will help revitalize the economy.

"I don't want bills to pile up," he said.

Manglona said the Senate has been passing several House bills, and will continue to do so.

Cabrera also hopes that there will not be a repeat of the budget deadlock and partial government shutdown last year.

The new speaker said he also met with House legal counsel

John Cool to look into the possibility of coming up with a standard resolution allowing the Executive Branch to fill vacancies or hire fulltime employees for health and safety positions.

Cabrera also said he will have another meeting today with Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), who earlier said she's not been formally asked to move to another office space.

As of yesterday, only Cabrera and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) were able to settle into their new office spaces. Palacios moved to Cabrera's former office space. Tenorio is supposed to move to Santos' office, and Santos is supposed to relocate to Palacios' office.

A second full leadership meeting will also be held on Friday morning in the House chamber. This is a follow up to Jan. 7 meeting between Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and lawmakers at the Saipan World Resort.

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'The challenge is staying committed to equal access to justice'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The biggest challenge about justice for all in the Marianas is staying committed to the goal of equal access to all forms of justice for everyone in the community, according to Micronesian Legal Services directing attorney Jane Mack.

"The final challenge, the real challenge now, is to have that commitment and staying committed to the goal of equal

access to justice and civil rights for all, to a fair and honest community that embraces social, economic, and legal justice," said Mack during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater on Jan. 17.

Having worked in the legal profession for decades, Mack noted that there are other challenges in ensuring that everyone in the community has access to the huge and encompassing

concept of justice.

Mack, who was a guest speaker at Monday's occasion, said that with the dwindling local economy, people have less ability to pay for private lawyers, thus the increase in the number of individuals who seek their help for legal services.

Despite their fairly limited resources, Mack said that they are still able to provide legal services to those in need as a result of the hard work and

dedication of their staff and attorneys.

"We are proud of the fact that our door is open and people can come to us and get legal representation that we think is good quality access to justice," she said.

According to Mack, technological changes in the practice of law have somehow become challenging, especially in a remote place like the Marianas.

From phone use to filing sys-

tem, Mack said some of these changes have made the process easier while some don't.

"But no matter how great these challenges of technology are, they're still small compared to the challenge of deeply-rooted human attitudes," she emphasized.

This challenge, Mack said, is manifested in the criticisms they receive since Micronesian Legal Services extends its services without discrimination.

"This is an attitude issue

that relates to justice for all. It isn't only African-Americans that Martin Luther King Jr. talked about. He spoke about justice for all, an attitude that is important to think about," she added.

Mack emphasized the importance of justice in the Marianas and the rest of the world. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly," she added.

Fund defers decision on pension software

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees deferred making a decision on its defective pension software system during Friday's meeting, saying the board needs more time to review the findings of R&R Associates, the company that evaluated the non-performing software.

Fund chair Sixto Igisomar, who received the report Friday, said the findings would serve as a guideline that would help trustees make a sound decision at their next meeting.

"I am very happy with the report. I am glad that there's a thorough documentation from a professional who also provided a general overview of what needs to be done and will allow us trustees to make a decision," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fund already paid over \$402,000 for the software project, which was designed by Express Electronics Ltd. It was initiated in 2008 and has yet to be

completed despite being already 90 percent paid.

During Friday's meeting, trustees explored the idea of hiring a project manager in case they decide to go ahead and "fix" the deficiencies of the software but Igisomar pointed out that a project manager will only be needed if the board chooses to have the software fixed.

"If we are going to proceed and decide to move forward...I would like to see somebody monitoring the project [during the fixing] if we will go in that direction," he said.

Because there is still \$47,400 remaining on the project cost, Igisomar said the board will possibly favor having the previous contractor fix the deficiency.

"We can't just scrap it too easily because we spent a lot for this project. If we can do

it within the \$40,000 left, we will do it...but we're hoping to fix it for less than the

amount," he added.

The \$449,000 project was supposed to be com-

pleted in 2009.

In the single audit performed for the Fund in 2009, the pension software system was among the serious findings noted by auditors.

Fund records show that 89.4 percent of the total project amount had already been paid to Express Electronics Ltd., totaling \$402,340. The contract balance is \$47,400.

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Sobriety checkpoint found constitutional

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has found the Department of Public Safety's sobriety checkpoint constitutional, particularly the one held in Susupe on April 30, 2010, during which a lawyer was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and other traffic charges.

In a decision issued yesterday, Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Stephen J. Nutting's motion to suppress or dismiss the evidence and the case, saying the CNMI government complied with DPS' standard operating procedures, or SOP, when it administered the checkpoint.

Manglona also determined that Nutting's constitutional rights were not violated when he was ordered out of his vehicle.

"The...checkpoint was constitutional since no persons were

singled out arbitrarily for investigation, the field officers had no discretion on whom to stop, and the officers substantially complied with the SOP," Manglona said.

Manglona expressed belief that police officer Tarimai Yangetmai had sufficient reasonable suspicion to order Nutting out of his car and then question him about his alcohol consumption that evening.

After his arrest, Nutting was charged with violating the Open Container Act, reckless driving, DUI, and refusal to submit to a breath test.

The CNMI government later dismissed the reckless driving and DUI charges. His refusal to submit to a breath test and having an open container remain pending in court.

According to court documents, Yangetmai, the greeter at the checkpoint, told Nutting to step

out of the vehicle after detecting the odor of alcohol inside the car and noticing an open container of alcoholic beverage in the center cup holder of the vehicle.

Nutting also replied "yes" when asked if he had drunk any alcoholic beverages that evening.

Yangetmai tried to administer a field sobriety test but Nutting refused, claiming he had sustained a tennis injury a few weeks prior. He also refused to give a breath sample for the breathalyzer test. Nutting was then arrested.

Nutting, through counsel Sheila N. Trianni, filed a motion to suppress/dismiss, saying the planning and operation of the checkpoint was constitutionally infirm for two reasons: the government failed to comply with SOP when administering the sobriety checkpoint and the greeting officer improperly exerted discretion over him in violation of his rights.

In denying the motion, Manglona said while she believes that the public should be given adequate notice of the date and location of sobriety checkpoints in the future to ensure that the goals and objectives of the government are maximized, advance public notice is not constitutionally necessary.

"In addition, by alerting the public that the Commonwealth is taking an aggressive stance on drunk driving, more accidents can be prevented," Manglona said.

Manglona said she does not find that Yangetmai's failure to ask Nutting how much he had to drink and when prior to ordering him out of his vehicle was unreasonable or in violation of Nutting's constitutional rights, warranting a suppression of all evidence stemming from the checkpoint.

She also determined that Nutting's argument that Yangetmai violated SOP are without merit.

Kilili's ceremonial swearing-in on Jan. 28 at Hopwood school

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Because most CNMI residents didn't get the chance to attend Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's official swearing-in on Jan. 5 in Washington, D.C. for a second term, the delegate will have a "ceremonial swearing-in" on the island where he's from.

Sablan has started sending invitations to his ceremonial swearing-in, which will be held at 9:30am on Jan. 28, Friday, at the outdoor stage of Hopwood Junior High School.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. will be the one to officiate the ceremonial swearing-in.

The ceremonial swearing-in will also serve as a "Meet your U.S. Congressman" event "to discuss constituents' issues."

Sablan, the first CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives after the November 2008 election, was re-elected in a four-way delegate race in November 2010.

One of his first official acts as a member of the 112th Congress was to introduce the submerged lands bill and the proposed Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Act, which both failed to make it when he first offered them in the 111th Congress.

FLAWS

From Page 1

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the agency is now in the process of selecting a firm that would evaluate the design for flaws.

Texas-based Leo Daly Co. got the contract in 2003 to come up with the original design for the terminal. It was paid \$399,000 for the work. Funding was part of the \$2.6 million approved for the Tinian airport using CIP monies. At that time, CPA estimated construction work on the project to be completed by early 2004.

Deleon Guerrero said the complaint was brought to CPA's attention by engineers that are overseeing the design to convert the old and new wings of the airport. He declined to name the company handling the conversion project.

"I have requested our engineering division to negotiate with different firms to see how much will it cost to get somebody to evaluate the structure... and we're asking the engineering firm that is doing the conversion of the two wings to do the analysis and integrity of the new building that was built," said Deleon Guerrero.

Leo Daly Co. is the same company that the CNMI government sued in 2009 for \$10

million due to the defective design of the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis unit. The parties agreed to settle the case for \$2 million last year.

Deleon Guerrero cited that fresh concerns focus on whether or not proper calculations were made with the design.

"Of course we don't know that. ...The contractor has been questioned about this...so we are concerned about it and we decided to do something, to have it fully evaluated to see whether the structure is sound or not," he said.

Three firms have already submitted proposals to CPA and the ports authority is now negotiating the price for the project.

Potential lawsuit

Although CPA has yet to establish the facts about the alleged flawed design, Deleon Guerrero admitted that a potential lawsuit is in the offing if findings will reveal deficiencies.

"Of course we have to go after the original designer...but that's still down the line pending the result of the evaluation. However, there's only one aspect questioned about the project and that's the calculation but as far as to say if the structure is not good...we cannot assume that for now," he said.

CPA, he said, will wait for the findings of the evaluation before proceeding with the actual merging of the two

terminal wings.

Reasons for delay

Deleon Guerrero cited two reasons for the delay in the project.

"When they built the one wing, it was meant to combine the old and new terminal. At present, we just completed the design for this merging and will soon award it for actual construction," he explained.

The "new" wing, which is designed to become the airport's departure terminal, is still not operational at this time, Deleon Guerrero said, because the merger has not been completed and no big airline is currently flying to Tinian.

"We're still using the old

commuter terminal until such time we finish the merging of two wings," he said.

That merging will not proceed until CPA determines that the design of the new wing is structurally sound, he added.

Deleon Guerrero vowed to expedite all the work and process relating to the Tinian airport terminal project. Once CPA hurdles these alleged design flaws, the renovation of the entire terminal will proceed, including rest-room improvements, changing of partitions to accommodate bigger offices, and other "facelifts" to make the terminal a convenient place for passengers, he said.

CNMI

From Page 1

Act requests for information related to government legal service contracts, said the CNMI can minimize the use of outside counsel in most areas.

"It might make sense to contract out services in cases where there are, say, conflicts of interest, or if there is a need for highly specialized knowledge that isn't easily found within the government or within the CNMI. But other than that, there is really no need for the CNMI to be paying outside counsel to handle matters that could just as easily, and more cost-effectively, be handled by in-house counsel," Sablan said when asked for comment on data so far provided in response to her requests for information.

Sablan's requested data shows the hundreds of thousands of dollars that the CNMI government has been paying for outside counsel since at least 2008.

The purpose of the OGA request is to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process, that may have occurred, and may take further action as necessary.

Legal services have historically been, and continue to be, a major government expenditure, as well as a significant source of abuse, Sablan said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when separately asked for comment, said Attorney General Ed Buckingham "has already initiated review and analysis of expenses related to retaining outside counsel."

"This would be the basis to determine whether it would be more efficient for the attorneys within the OAG to assume this additional workload," Demapan said.

Sablan, for her part, said the AG "has paid quite a lot of lip service to the need to minimize the use of outside counsel."

But Buckingham, she said, "has signed off on many of these contracts anyway, not least of which is the contract to private counsel to represent him personally in the criminal and ethical investigations against him."

Sablan was referring to the law office of G. Anthony Long, who—for \$200 an hour—represents Buckingham in his official capacity as AG and in his personal capacity in connection with a notice of alleged criminal and ethical violations

investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor.

"Like most people, I strongly believe that we should not be paying for Ed Buckingham's legal representation—not at \$200 an hour, not at any rate, when the matter involves investigations of his own alleged violations of CNMI law. That is one of the most egregious examples of abuse of public funds that we have seen so far," Sablan said.

Adding insult to injury

"To add insult to injury, the attorney general, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the public auditor are all refusing to release the report of the public auditor's investigations of the attorney general's conduct," Sablan said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Jan. 7, said he had already responded to Public Auditor Mike Pai's letter regarding the report on the AG.

Fitial said he could not disclose the content of his letter or the Office of the Public Auditor report, although he earlier said he's not necessarily agreeing with the OPA report.

Sablan had said it is in the best interest of the CNMI public for the government to disclose

the content of the OPA report.

"We are left to assume that violations of law were indeed found; that our own taxpayer dollars were spent at a rate of \$200 an hour for outside counsel to represent an attorney general who violated our laws and our trust; that Ed Buckingham remains in office without a single peep from any of our legislators, who have the power to impeach and remove him; and there is no accountability whatsoever," Sablan said yesterday.

She said whatever the CNMI has been billed for Buckingham's legal fees, "Ed Buckingham must pay back."

Redactions

There have been extensive redactions of billings from nearly all private attorneys. Sablan said in many cases, one can't even tell in a general sense what it is that they are charging for.

"For the most part, the agencies that have redacted billings have claimed attorney-client privilege or privacy exemptions under the Open Government Act," she said.

This will likely be a matter that will be challenged in court, Sablan added.

Based on data that Sablan obtained from some govern-

ment agencies, private attorneys are paid by the government anywhere between \$95 and \$200 an hour.

"Assistant attorneys general, assistant public defenders, and staff attorneys in the CNMI make anywhere from \$23 an hour to \$38 an hour. They work full time, they work hard, and, in the cases of the assistant AGs, often serve multiple agencies," Sablan said.

She said these government lawyers are also often overwhelmed with work, "and for the price we have been paying outside counsel throughout the CNMI, we would be able to hire dozens of excellent in-house attorneys who can share the work and give the CNMI a better, more cost-effective product."

She pointed out, though, that dumping more money on the OAG is not necessarily the solution.

For one, there needs to be "more accountability" at the OAG.

Status

On Sunday, Sablan released documents she obtained from five agencies: CPA, CUC, Marianas Public Land Trust, Office of the Governor (incomplete response), and Office of the Attorney General.

The following day, she re-

leased documents obtained from CPUC and the Department of Public Lands.

The Department of Labor informed Sablan on Dec. 13 that the documents requested were ready for pickup within the time agreed. Sablan plans to pick up the documents at Labor this week.

Four other agencies already indicated to Sablan they do not have any documents related to her OGA request: the departments of Public Works, Commerce, Lands and Natural Resources, and Finance with respect to the first request.

Finance has yet to release documents related to the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau.

As of yesterday afternoon, Sablan has yet to receive complete responses from the Office of the Governor, Office of the Attorney General, and Finance. The Department of Public Health also has no billings or records of payment provided for the Sattersberg/Gregory contract.

Sablan said she will be inspecting this week documents from the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Commonwealth Development Authority, and Labor.

Tinian resident seeks records of professional service contracts

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Tinian resident and former Northern Marianas College regent Kimberlyn King-Hinds wants elected leaders of Tinian to disclose all transactions and records of past and present administrations to ensure that transparency in governance still works for the island.

In an Open Government Act request sent yesterday to Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Tinian Municipal Council chair Patrick Manglona, and Sen. Jude Hofschneider, King-Hinds requested copies of all professional service contracts awarded to individuals and groups during this and the last municipal administration.

Dela Cruz said yesterday that he will comply with the law and provide King-Hinds all the needed information and documentations she needs as a resident of Tinian.

"This is the law...and as mayor of Tinian, I respect the law and will comply with its mandates. I have nothing to hide in this administration and this OGA is a way to bring out the truth," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

King-Hinds' OGA request came just days after another resident—Felipe Atalig—filed

a similar request.

"There have been a lot of speculations about my administration...allegations of misuse of funds. But as a public figure, being elected to the position, I know that I will be subjected to these criticisms and I welcome those, although sometimes these are disturbing," Dela Cruz said, adding that he practices transparency in his administration.



King-Hinds

King-Hinds' requests include contracts signed during the terms of former mayor Jose San Nicolas. She asked all related documents be provided, including those in the custody and control of the Tinian Mayor's Office, chief executive officer, legal counsel, office of the municipal treasury, office of the municipal council, and any other offices that may have related records.

For the professional service contracts, King-Hinds asked for a list of names of individuals, copies of actual contracts, terms and conditions, invoices, checks, and receipts issued to contractors.

She also asked for documents relating to "all municipal funds requested and expended" on behalf of the Tinian Municipal Council and members of the legislative delegation, including the duration of former mayor San Nicolas' administration.

These include travel, professional service contracts, rental, official representation, donations, and a complete line-item listing of any expenditure involving municipal funds as requested by the delegation and the council.

In an email to local leaders

yesterday, King-Hinds said she filed the OGA because she feels compelled to ensure that the people of Tinian are given a full depiction of how municipality funds are expended.

"The Open Government Act is a great tool but only if people are given a complete disclosure

of facts. All those elected should share equal responsibility in leadership, governance, and accountability of performance on behalf of the people they represent," she said in the email, asking local leaders not to misunderstand her efforts.

"Please don't mistake my ef-

forts as not understanding the game of politics. I know the game very well and choose not to play by rules that continue to benefit a few, is destructive to my community, and does nothing to promote progress that people rightfully deserve and need," she added.


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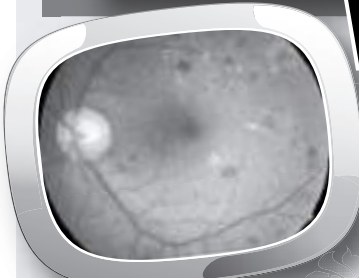
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made to move 



NMC posts 17 pct. increase in spring semester enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's spring semester enrollment increased by 17 percent compared to the same period last year.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, disclosed yesterday that NMC registered a total of 1,155 students during the weeklong enrollment that ended Saturday. This translates to a 17-percent increase over the spring 2010 semester and a 36-percent increase over spring 2009's.

Pangelinan attributed the enrollment boost to several factors, including the college's aggressive recruitment efforts.

"Much recognition is due to our hardworking recruitment team members, who have done an excellent job in their efforts to attract more students to NMC," he told *Saipan Tribune*. The recruitment team is composed of students, staff, and faculty members.

The grim state of the local economy is also driving more people to consider NMC to fur-



NMC students pose for a photo during the first day of classes for the spring 2011 semester. NMC's enrollment for spring 2011 climbed by 17 percent compared to the same semester last year.

ther their education and broaden their career prospects, he said.

Pangelinan said that enrollment has also been fueled by activities and programs of the College Access Challenge Project, a federally funded program that seeks to increase the number of low-income students entering college. The CACP funds activities such as the Start Smart

Seminars and Cash for College events.

He praised the staff, faculty, and student volunteers who helped make registration week a success. "Overall, the registration of classes went smoothly in general, thanks to improved registration procedures and the commitment of hardworking NMC employees

and student volunteers."

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera said she was impressed with the enrollment turnout.

"We are grateful for the impressive turnout of students who registered for this spring semester. We are also extremely appreciative of the teamwork demonstrated by our staff, fac-

ulty, and student volunteers in making this year's registration week a smooth one," said Cabrera, adding that they're seeing more students who realize the value of a college degree and are choosing NMC.

Top enrollment breakdown

Based on college records, a big

bulk of this semester's enrollees is for the associate degree program in liberal arts, with 290 students.

The bachelor in science degree with concentrations in elementary education, special education, rehabilitation, and human services, and early childhood education comes second, with 286 enrollees.

The college's associate degree in nursing has 162 students for the spring semester while the associate degree in criminal justice has 103. Associate degree in business has a total of 84 students.

Other certificate programs have the following enrollments: business administration, computer application emphasis, 54; business administration, business management emphasis, 36; business administration, accounting, 44; hospitality management, 31; and natural resource management, 21.

A total of 44 students are enrolled in non-degree programs.

NMC is the only community college on island. Besides its main campus on Saipan, it has two instructional sites on Rota and Tinian but their academic programs have been suspended since 2008.

Payroll today for non-critical govt employees

Non-critical government employees who did not receive their payroll on Thursday will get paid today.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, upon receiving confirmation yesterday, said "payroll for non-critical service personnel should post in their bank accounts as early as [this] morning."

Thursday last week was supposed to be the first payroll of the year for government employees but because cash collections have remained low, only critical government employees, as well as federally funded employees, were able to receive their paychecks on time.

At least \$4 million is needed to make government payroll every two weeks. Almost half of this is for so-called critical government employees, including emergency personnel from the Department of Public Safety's Police and Fire Divisions, Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections and the Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Detention Unit.

Hundreds of CNMI government employees have been having delayed wages at least eight times since June 2010 because of severe cash shortage.

Many of these government employees have also been subjected to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays starting in October last year, under the fiscal year 2011 budget law. (Haidee V. Eugenio)



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to discuss constituent issues with

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United States House of Representatives

Friday, January 28, 2011

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Necklaces up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charms up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pens up to \$400 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Bracelets .. up to \$1,500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold School Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watches up to \$1,750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Cuff Links up to \$300 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
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Suspect in condo burglary arrested

Police arrested Saturday in Garapan a man who allegedly burglarized a condominium along Mt. Tapochau Drive and stole a laptop and a \$50 bill last week.

Daniel Robert Johnny, 24, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a hearing on charges of burglary, theft, and contempt. Bail was set at \$100,000 cash.

The Department of Public Safety issued on Thursday a press release asking the public for assistance in locating Johnny.

Detective Buddy Igitol stated in his report that a police officer had responded on Jan. 11, 2011, at 8:59am to Coral Condominium where a residence had been burglarized.

The victim, Rebecca Marie Schroeder, told the officer that her 14-inch gray Acer laptop and \$50 had been stolen.

Investigation showed that the housekeeper saw the sus-

pect climb the gated fence and flee into the bushes. The housekeeper ran to the maintenance person, who called police.

The following day, detective Melissa Bauleong met a witness at the Tapochau Estates, located across the victim's residence. The witness identified Johnny as the person he saw running out of the bushes.

The witness told the detective that he recognized Johnny from a newscast that reported the suspect burglar-



Johnny

izing a Japanese bar and stealing a flat screen TV. The witness said the suspect would often come to his house to use the telephone.

Igitol said the descriptions of the suspect given by the housekeeper corroborate with the description of Johnny provided by the witness.

Police arrested Johnny in January 2010 for allegedly burglarizing Café de Colmar on Dec. 28, 2009. The suspect allegedly stole a 50-inch flat screen TV, a 32-inch flat screen TV, a DVD player, assorted jewelry, a flashlight, ashtray, and four bottles of beer. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Sunset Villa on Rota acquires new investor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has already received a \$10,000 non-refundable deposit based on the proposal of the selected investor to acquire the Sunset Villa property on Rota.

Sunset Villa is a beachfront

property originally owned by former representative Victor Hocog. Due to unresolved loan defaults, CDA took ownership of the hotel in 2000.

Loan manager Oscar Camacho disclosed that they received two proposals for the property: one was for \$220,000 while the other was for \$250,000.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that they chose the \$250,000 proposal since the buyer proposed to pay the non-refundable deposit and give the full payment 90 days after the deposit is made.

Camacho noted that the buyer also included in the terms allowing CDA to use the facility for their conferences or seminars on Rota for free on an as-needed basis.

"Once we receive the full payment by March 14 or 15, we will issue the deed to the property to the said investor," he added. He declined to name the investor.

Should the selected buyer fail to give the full payment, Camacho said they will most likely consider the other proposal.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 19, 1999

CPA counsel gives OK to port fees hike

The legal counsel of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has advised management to go ahead with its plan to increase its airport rate so that it can acquire an investment grade rating. CPA counsel Jose S. Dela Cruz reminded executive director Carlos H. Salas that the rating agency will only give an investment grade rating for the airport bonds if the fees are raised as recommended by Ricondo & Associates, the airport feasibility study consultant. The ports authority has not increased its airport fees for the past 10 years and the proposed rate hike will still make Saipan more competitive than Guam.

CPA, Seafix agree on ship-repair facility

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and Seafix Inc. are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to pave the way for the development of a marine repair facility on the island. Seafix has chosen to lease Echo Dock from CPA located at Saipan Harbor to become the site of the ship repair facility. Earlier, the firm wanted to develop the seaplane ramp in Lower Base and the South end of the newly renovated commercial dock now occupied by Samsung. CPA financial consultant Rex Palacios has cautioned the ports authority's management against making hasty decisions in giving companies exclusive rights to some properties owned by the agency because it might not provide the needed revenue.

Jan. 19, 2000

CUC welcomes probe on 80MW project

Unfazed by calls for investigation into the controversial Saipan power project, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday allayed fears that a new round of bidding for a smaller scale plant will incur huge expenditures of public funds. Utility officials likewise fended off criticisms leveled by some lawmakers over its decision to scrap the initial 80-megawatt plant, saying the Legislature had been informed every phase of the project since the request for proposals was issued three years ago. "CUC welcomes any inquiries regarding the decision to cancel the RFP," said board chair Rosario M. Elameto in a statement, the fourth released by the government-owned utility firm in five days regarding the power project.

DPH prepares for Tanapag medical testing

The Department of Public Health is preparing for the training of its medical staff with the scheduled arrival of a doctor from the Agency for Toxic Disease Registry next week who will assist the agency in the health assessment of Tanapag residents in connection with the widespread contamination in the village of polychlorinated biphenyls. PCB testings will include taking blood, body fat or breast milk samples to determine whether residents have been exposed to higher levels of PCBs. Earlier, DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said he plans to establish a clinic in Tanapag village to handle the expected huge number of people who would be seeking medical testings.


Jan. 19, 2001

Pedestrian mall to rise in Garapan

The Commonwealth government disclosed plans yesterday to build a pedestrian mall in the commercial district of Garapan in hopes to revitalize the Northern Marianas tourism industry. A statement released by the Office of the Governor said the initial phase of the long-standing multi-million dollar Garapan Revitalization Project has already begun with the construction of the landscaped medians along the busiest tourist zone. The construction of landscaped medians from the American Memorial Park to the DFS Galleria on Beach Road is aimed at improving not only the appearance of the Garapan area but also to redirect traffic in the Ginza district where the 3rd street will be eventually closed down to give way to the proposed walk-in mall.

MVA reports modest growth in visitor arrivals to CNMI

Tourist arrivals in the Northern Marianas registered a slight increase of 1 percent for the month of December totaling 44,870 compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. According to MVA, Taiwan led the biggest growth in visitor arrivals with a huge jump of 609 percent, the biggest growth to date for fiscal year 2000. Tourism officials attributed the growth to the ongoing Taipei-Saipan direct flights from Mandarin Airlines. Arrivals record from Japan, the island's main market showed a mere 1 percent increase compared to the same month of the previous year or a total of 32,080.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-041**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. THELMA B. INOS, DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION, VIA E-MAIL TO cnmienergy@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-4483 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 27, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT. AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN SECRETARY, DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S
/s/ THELMA B. INOS DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION	/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT INC. dba LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT



Accounting Clerk:

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or designee, performs a wide variety of routine accounting activities which include receiving and processing payments, issuing receipts, preparing daily deposit slips, closing credit cards, verifying and processing payroll, running automatic credit card payments, posting invoice, preparing checks, preparing refunds and preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports, maintains filing system, performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with payments and in settling disputes, and performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma, or G.E.D., plus three years related customer service of bookkeeping experience, knowledge of basic bookkeeping principles, office procedures, proficient in Microsoft Office application (Excel, Word), keyboarding techniques, performing basic mathematical calculations, cash handling and bank deposit procedures, maintaining records, using standard office equipments, tabulating, recording and balancing transactions, preparing routine reports using a computer and related software applications, customer service principles, good interpersonal communication skills with co-worker, supervisors and customers sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for Big Boyz Marine Sports

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing for this Conditional Use application. Masanari Yasuda of Big Boyz Marine Sports is requesting to establish a commercial garage. This business would provide general vehicle repair and custom painting services to the general public. This activity would occur on Lot 409-1-R-1 in the As Terlaje area along Monsignor Guerrero Road. The site is now zoned as "Mixed Commercial".

Date: February 3rd, 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 2nd, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for Montessori Day Care Center

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing for this Conditional Use application. Terry Ramos of New Pacific Enterprises Inc. is requesting to establish a Day Care Center on Lot 002 H 02-1. This is at the intersection of Lulai Way and Pachinko Avenue in the village of Susupe. The site is now zoned as "Village Residential".

Date: February 3rd, 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 2nd, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Japanese movie sets exclusive Saipan premiere on Jan. 31

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japanese film about the war in the Pacific will have its premiere on Saipan at the end of the month.

Ayako Matsumoto of Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Inc. said the film *Oba, The Last Samurai* will have three by-invitation-only screenings on Jan. 31 at the

Hollywood Theater.

She said the film company Toho Co., Ltd. is set to release the film on Feb. 11 throughout Japan.

Produced by Nippon Television Network Corp., *Oba, The Last Samurai* is based on the novel about Capt. Sakae Oba written by Don Jones, a former U.S. Marine stationed on Saipan.

Also called the "Fox" by

American soldiers for his stealth and unpredictability, Oba led one of the last remaining organized units of Japanese soldiers on Saipan.

Oba and the other soldiers under his command continued their battle and employed guerilla-style raids before they surrendered in December 1945, 512 days after the official surrender of Japan to U.S. forces

on July 7, 1944.

"Capt. Oba is really famous in history and was respected by American soldiers," said Matsumoto.

Oba's character in the movie is played by Yutaka Takenouchi, an actor known for hit Japanese television dramas and movies like *Between Calmness and Passion* and *The Hovering Blade*. The film is directed by

Hideyuki Hirayama.

Matsumoto told *Saipan Tribune* that about 30 film crew and celebrities as well as Japanese media will arrive on Saipan for the scheduled premiere.

"Since the film is about the war in the Pacific and with the arrival of the cast and crew of the film, it will be a good exposure for the island," she said.

Matsumoto added that the ad-

vance film screenings will also provide an added marketing value as they can be included in travel packages among Japanese tourists.

According to Matsumoto, the visiting Japanese cast and crew will also hold a peace ceremony to offer 1,000 origami pieces at the Japanese Peace Memorial during their stay on Saipan.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitia, on *December 30, 2010*, approved and issued *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2010-01* for *Sandy Beach Homes, LLC* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately \$28.2 million to construct a residential complex in *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 14, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



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Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha	
MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/8 Sat	1/6 Thu	1/6 Thu	1/4 Tue	1/1 Sat	1/14 Fri	1/10 Mon	1/9 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/10 Mon	1/14 Fri	1/16 Sun	1/18 Tue	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/15 Sat	1/13 Thu	1/13 Thu	1/11 Tue	1/8 Sat	1/21 Fri	1/17 Mon	1/16 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/17 Mon	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	1/25 Tue	
MELL SILOSO	016E	1/22 Sat	1/20 Thu	1/20 Thu	1/18 Tue	1/15 Sat	1/28 Fri	1/24 Mon	1/23 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/24 Mon	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	2/1 Tue	
MELL SENTOSA	050E	1/29 Sat	1/27 Thu	1/27 Thu	1/25 Tue	1/22 Sat	2/4 Fri	1/31 Mon	1/30 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/31 Mon	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	2/8 Tue	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/5 Sat	2/3 Thu	2/3 Thu	2/1 Tue	1/29 Sat	2/11 Fri	2/7 Mon	2/6 Sun	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	2/7 Mon	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	2/15 Tue	
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/12 Sat	2/10 Thu	2/10 Thu	2/8 Tue	2/5 Sat	2/18 Fri	2/14 Mon	2/13 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/14 Mon	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	2/22 Tue	
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
		Guam														
	MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/22 Sat	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/25 Mon	1/26 Wed	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/4 Fri	2/5 Sat	2/10 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/13 Sun	2/9 Wed
	MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/29 Sat	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/2 Wed	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	SKIP	2/11 Fri	2/12 Sat	2/17 Thu	3/8 Tue	2/20 Sun	2/16 Wed
	MELL SILOSO	016E	2/5 Sat	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sat	2/9 Wed	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/18 Fri	2/19 Sat	2/24 Thu	3/15 Tue	2/27 Sun	2/23 Wed
	MELL SENTOSA	050E	2/12 Sat	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/16 Wed	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	SKIP	2/25 Fri	2/26 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/6 Sun	3/2 Wed
	MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/19 Sat	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/23 Wed	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/4 Fri	3/5 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/13 Sun	3/9 Wed
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/26 Sat	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/2 Wed	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	SKIP	3/11 Fri	3/12 Sat	3/17 Thu	4/5 Tue	3/20 Sun	3/16 Wed	

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Obama in Arizona: A time to heal

There are moments in a presidency when a leader delivers a speech and everyone goes about their business thereafter as if nothing happened. Other times, a president rises to the occasion in such extraordinary fashion that the audience is somehow changed.

President Obama delivered a brilliant eulogy honoring victims of Arizona's shooting rampage. He offered comfort to an aching nation.

Americans of all political stripes know, as Obama said, we must force ourselves to tone down our overheated rhetoric and talk to one another "in a way that heals, not a way that wounds."

That is a nonpartisan sentence.

"Bad things happen, and we must guard against simple explanations in the aftermath," Obama said. "We may not be able to stop all the evil in the world, but I know that how we treat one another, that's entirely up to us."

The president paid tribute to each victim, most eloquently recalling 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green. Obama did not merely rattle off interesting facets of her short life. He used her world view as a stirring rhetorical flourish:

"She saw public service as something exciting and hopeful. She was off to meet her congresswoman, someone she was sure was good and important and might be a role model. ... I want to live up to her expectations. I want our democracy to be as good as Christina imagined it."

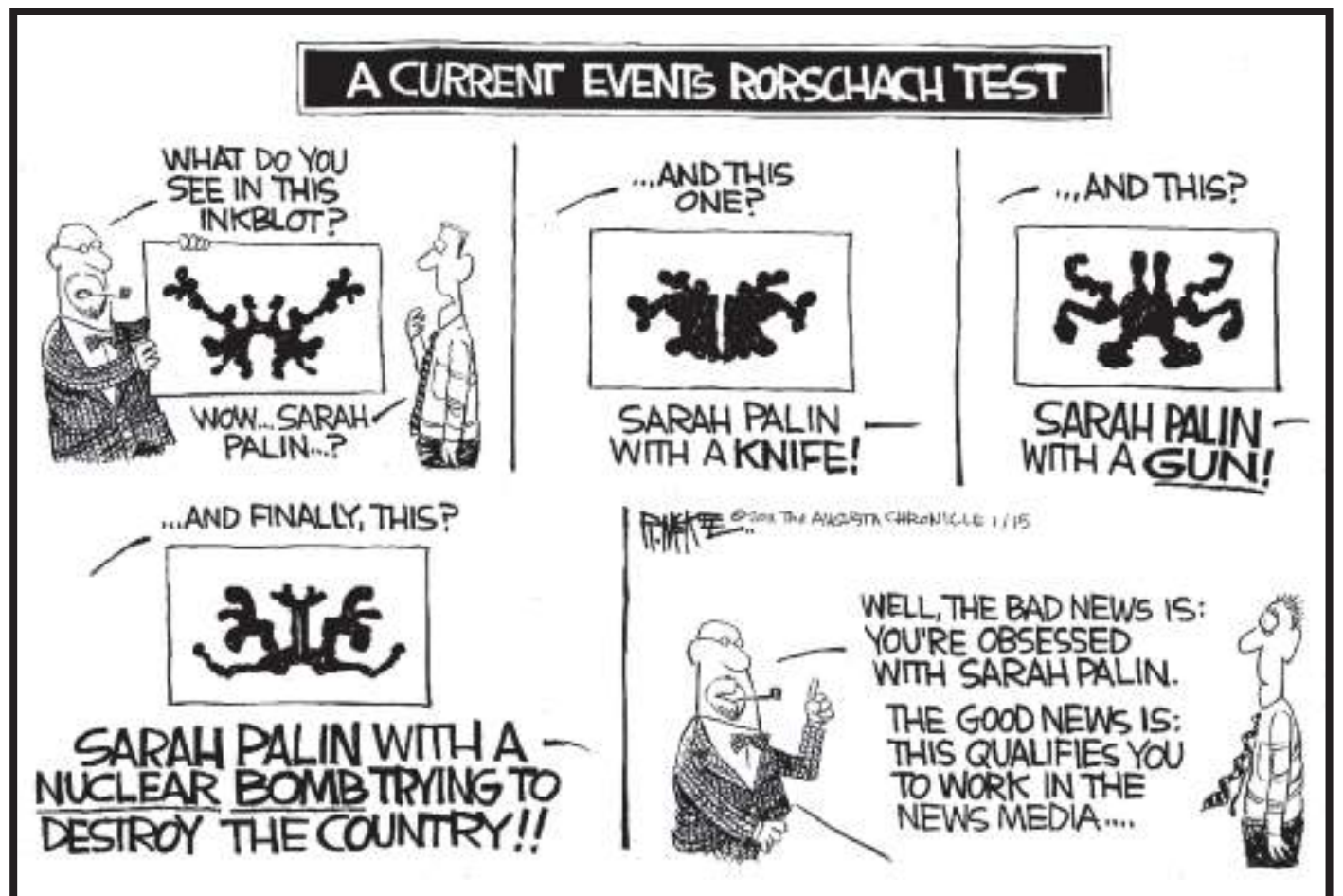
The crowd cheered when Obama said he had visited critically injured Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and soon after he left, she opened her eyes for the first time since she was shot.

At that moment, Michelle Obama was holding hands with Giffords' husband, NASA astronaut Mark Kelly. Tears and cheers flowed. The Obamas traveled to Arizona to begin the healing and succeeded.

Some pundits lamented that a serious funeral turned into something more like a rally. Perhaps it should have been smaller and more reserved. But grief and emotions are expressed in various ways.

Obama implored us to rise to our better angels. The audience should not just go about its business. We should heed the call to turn down the volume and the heat.

(c) 2011, The Seattle Times



We are the ones we have been waiting for

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*I*t was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Charles Dickens' famous two-sentence that begins *A Tale of Two Cities* starts Alice Walker's introduction to her 2006 book, *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness*.

Alice Walker attributes the phrase to June Jordan, the fierce and frequently furious poet of Jamaican descent who died of cancer in 2002. She penned a poem in 1980 to commemorate 40,000 women and children "dom pas" protest of apartheid South Africa c. 1956 (pronounce the word and there is no mistaking what it is about).

The ensemble Sweet Honey of the Rocks took the words and put it into music:

*And who will join this standing up
and the ones who stood without sweet company
will sing and sing
back into the mountains and
if necessary
even under the sea:
we are the ones we have been waiting for.*

Hopi elders took the phrase to foretell their future, quoted by Maria Shriver of the Schwarzenegger household. In 2008, Barack Obama used the phrase during the 2008 presidential campaign. "*We are the ones we have been waiting for*" has become the slogan of participatory democracy stalwarts of all persuasion, this writer included.

That spirit brought me to the Monday commemoration of the MLK Day at the Visitor's Center of the AMP. Mississippian Jesse Pennington of the Palau Micronesian Legal Services of the '70s and our own MLS Jane Mack were joined in a panel by Superior Court Judge Ken Govendo and former BoE Teachers' Rep Ambrose Bennett on the theme, "I Have a Dream: Reifying the Dream in the Mariana Islands." (*Reify*; from the Latin *res* = *thing*, to make concrete that which is abstract, related to the word 'Republic', *res publica*, of, or belonging to, the public, and *deify*, manifesting that which is not a thing. Hey, I am not the only one who gets people scurrying to the dictionary!)

Lawyer Joe Hill presided over the Q&A portion after the presentations. Judge Jesse Borja's question on why we do not seem to learn from lessons of history, either from home or our schools, reminded me of my arrival in the United States in 1965 when I thought the struggle for civil rights was a done deal with Earl Warren's court decision on the Brown v. Board of Education case. I spent the next six years losing my innocence.

My formative years were contexted by John XXIII's Ecumenical Council, JFK-LBJ's Vietnam War, and MLK's nonviolent movement, crowned by the poetry of the earthrise of hope '68. What followed was and continues to be simply a reifying of the '60's dream. This year's MLK day theme was right down our alley.

I might have spoken a bit out of turn during the Q&A since I really did not have as much of a question as a comment. Essentially

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan TribuneVergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

I said: "I appreciate the Brits for their saying, *The King is dead! Long live the King!* What King did is only important if it informs our decisions, and next year, I would like for us to sit around the table, under King's umbrella, and discuss what we are doing for social justice rather than wondering what King would do were he confronted with the challenges of our time. Obama said, *We are the ones we have been waiting for*. So let us be the ones."

My comments, of course, stems from a deeper source. As ordained clergy, I am at war with 1,700 years of Christian idolatry in shrouding Yeshua Ibn Nazareth (commonly known as Jesus) with the mantle of idol worship. "What would Jesus say/do" became the slogan of the '90s superman Jesus, and the tenor of the MLK celebration began to sound like a speculative escape to things MLK might or might not do were he in our shoes, rather than what we are doing with the core challenge of our time. In Jesus' case, we've lost the historical Jesus in the miasma of superstition and super extension.

Today's challenge is only incidentally economic and political. At core, it is cultural. Pellegrino *et al* says as much with the economy. The issue is not resource, production or distribution—it is mindset and we are stuck in either a culture of dependence, primarily on Uncle Sam, or in a waiting-for-a-savior mode, which we thought Lang-Abramoff-Delay-Fitial would deliver. Nor is it about political freedoms. "What use is freedom if we go home freely and are beaten up by our spouse," our anti-domestic violence advocate Ken Govendo declared.

Pogo said: We've met the enemy, it is us! Or, put the same sentiment another way: We are the ones we have been waiting for!

I once facilitated a one-day conference of government officials and business executives in Manila on decentralization of services and devolution of power. We could have just spent the day receiving reports and doing cursory questions of clarity, but as the main facilitator, I decided to begin the meeting by saying, "Within the next 6 hours, we will leave our titles and offices outside of the door, and we will deal with our issue as ordinary human beings dealing with an ordinary but urgent matter." We did.

The output was substantive, but the evaluation was telling: officials felt their dignity violated for not being called director so-and-so, and the honorable this-and-that. They were useful as individuals, but they valued their titles more. That was the last facilitation gig I ever consented to do at that level, as well as the last one I was ever asked to do for the funding agency.

Might we do the same thing next year? For ordinary Joe and Jane in Martin's name?

EDITORIAL POLICY

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As financial disaster deepens

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Most folks are now used to hearing the thematic ring of “delayed paydays” every two weeks. But there’s the stealth apocalyptic pain following closely behind. They know it’s coming but aren’t sure of its severity. It confirms a government that is cash-strapped to the hilt. It is struggling unsuccessfully to inch its way out of the quicksand of bankruptcy.

There’s also the concurrent reduction in work hours that compromises the purchasing power of all employees from both sectors. This and other assaults have sent most folks pining for answers, answers that aren’t forthcoming anytime soon. Nothing solid from the hill other than “we’re going to be working together.”

Fuel cost has just gone up, including the price of food and other basic necessities. These necessities are slated for more rounds of increases this year. Costs have and will continue to pile up by leaps and bounds while income for ALL consumers go the other way. It boggles the mind how else would we deal with slated increases in basic necessities this year.

Brace for more of it. The worst is yet to come. It’s a global phenomenon that finds its way even to the smallest communities situated away from mainstream communities.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Government of Guam has gone into the “actual” collection method of budgeting. It’s a spending mode implemented to stem expenses that now exceed over \$300 million. It’s determined not to spend money it doesn’t have in its coffers. Even salary raises have been postponed indefinitely.

This ought to be done here too. The NMI must exit the “anticipated” revenues method of budgeting and stick to “actual” collection. This ought to force real time cuts on any and all expenses to skeletal level. These cuts must begin forthwith. It’s no longer an option.

The use of “anticipated” revenues without the source would consistently fall way short of its mark. This would result in more “delayed” paydays that would soon morph into “payless” paydays. Let’s work on real time belt tightening.

■ ■ ■ ■

Political posturing aside, the task of rebuilding \$3 billion to 5 billion that once were recycled in the local economy is a humongous task. It would take about a decade or so to recoup, if at all. Interim measures are just that—ad hoc solutions—slated to fumble on the side of shortsightedness. Tried to be optimistic but the use of the language of the past would have us advancing to the rear.

Einstein calls this exercise “insanity” where one juggles the same figures over and over in hopes of securing different results. Hope this isn’t the case on the hill.

Reportedly, our legislators are going to smile their way through it

all. The new goal is to make the NMI more “business friendly.” I heard they’re pissed when they woke up one morning and found the islands very “unfriendly.” What sterling discovery!

Have the guys come to grasp the depth of the fiscal disaster before them? Or are they dilly-dallying with substantive issues with blank but friendly smiles? The task requires a commitment of funds to engage real experts to design a way out of the current mess! It’s good to take the beast by the horn provided that key players really are equipped with the wherewithal to doing decency with a mess we’ve ignored for over 20 years.

I have no qualms with participants from private industries with real time experience on running successful businesses. But would our illustrious policymakers listen to their counterparts on the committee? It’s the left hand knowing what the right hand is doing and if perchance you can’t fathom the discussion, let those who understand the issues pitch in.

■ ■ ■ ■

Where do we begin the collective effort to resolve the dizzying economic mess before us? The fatal effects of federalization of immigration to which there’s no real time guidelines to guarantee smooth transition?

Is U.S. Homeland Security wary that its inadequacy on this score has exacerbated the current economic mess? For instance, did Homeland Security provide for interim financial cushion as it works with the local government to ensure normalcy? If not, isn’t it a matter of utmost importance that Homeland Security ensures that the livelihood of the innocent is protected from its bureaucratic inadequacies and failures?

The NMI isn’t absolved from the fatally disastrous mess it helped create. What substitute measures did it take to cushion revenue losses from the exit of the apparel industry? Did it listen to requests by Continental Airlines (now Delta) to make Saipan its hub in recent past? Or did it simply treat it with the usual dismissive political arrogance when it should have rolled out the red carpet?

Is it justified now to raise complaints about the lack of load capacity and its concurrent effects of tourism sputtering to death? What measures did the NMI take to guard against the loss of \$3-5 billion in investments funds, not to mention billions more that were scrapped because of its very regressive land policy? What did the NMI do to institute policy stability relating to investments?

■ ■ ■ ■

A way to salvation is to privatize every government function that competes with the private sector. We need not look beyond IT&E as a sterling example of what happens when privatization occurs. You not only remove the cost being paid for by taxpayers, but you also end up with far superior quality of services all year round. I can literally walk through all departments and agencies to choose functions that are best left in private industries. Hell, I’ve done serious trimming of a certain business being subsidized to the tune of \$20K per month. I brought it down to zero in nine months time. Yes, we can folks!

Tucson tragedy will only temporarily halt the language of derision and hate

By BOB RAY SANDERS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

We are not, nor have we ever been, immune from the disease of senseless violence in this country.

The rich soil of our sacred democracy is fertile ground for those disaffected, disillusioned or deranged individuals who seek to soothe their troubled minds and hearts by destroying someone else.

And as hard as we try, in a free society there is no way we can protect everyone from them. So periodically we must suffer their madness and endure their unspeakable pain, not just as individuals, but as a nation.

John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald are names we know all too well in American history. We don’t seem to know as much about Charles Julius Guiteau and Leon Czolgosz, although we’re familiar with their dastardly deeds—assassinating Presidents James Garfield and William McKinley, respectively.

Many of us know quite well the names of Byron De La Beckwith, James Earl Ray, Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, Sarah Jane Moore, John Hinckley Jr., Arthur Bremer, Timothy McVeigh, Eric Rudolph, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, just to begin the list of sick souls who targeted innocent people to satisfy their malignant discontent or own self-hatred.

We may be ready to add to that group another hopelessly sad figure, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, who is accused of shooting and severely wounding Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., as she held a “Congress on Your Corner” meeting on a Tucson shopping center parking lot. He is suspected in a one-man terror attack that also resulted in the death of a federal judge and five others, and the wounding of 13 more.

Among the dead is 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, a student council member who had gone to the congresswoman’s event to get a lesson in civics and politics. Instead, the girl who was born on 9-11

became part of a tragic event.

The fact that this deadly melee occurred in Arizona, a hotbed of political discord, and at a time when uncivil speech has become the norm, causes us naturally to want to place blame on those who may have, in the slightest way, influenced the shooter.

While we may never know all of the reasons for Loughner’s cowardly act, we would be naive to dismiss out of hand that the inflamed rhetoric of the past two years—much of it coming from our “leaders” and public figures—might have some impact on such an obviously disturbed person.

Those who feed off vitriol ought to be put on notice once again that, to paraphrase Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik, words have consequences and those who utter them ought to be prepared to take some responsibility for the actions that follow.

Most of us regard sick acts by deranged people deplorable and anti-theoretical to what this nation is about. In light of this most recent tragedy, as several of our fellow citizens lie dead and others cling fragily to life, we shall put aside our disdainful discourse for a brief season.

Then we shall quickly return to business as usual, with all the derision, hate-filled speech and wanton disrespect we can muster.

Unfortunately, the abnormal has become the “new normal” in America. The lyric, “Land where our fathers died,” has taken on a whole new meaning, as targeted and random violence consistently takes from us not only our fathers, but our mothers, our children, our friends and neighbors.

While we try to fight a war against foreign terrorists, we should also come to grips with the war within being waged by those home-grown terrorists who too often are simply dismissed as “crazy loners” or “disturbed people.”

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at bobray@star-telegram.com.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

Letters to the Editor

Just a reminder

To Mr. Ed Propst: It’s funny how you enjoy bashing, ridiculing, and criticizing the local GOP or Covenant Party and their members but let’s remind the entire public of the CNMI that you voted for the same Covenant administration in 2005. Let me remind you who you voted for: You voted for Benigno Fitial and Timothy Villagomez in 2005. You endorsed the *Chalan Baranka* for Better Times and campaigned on their behalf, remember?

You talk about political whores and who better to know than one who is the very essence of political whoremanship. You abandoned your beloved Covenant Party in 2005 and tried to deny it. You jumped into a two-way bandwagon in the 2009 election, supporting Heinz/Arnold and Juan Pan/Joe Camacho. Oh no, that doesn’t sound right, supporting two political candidates. It was only when Juan Pan and Joe Camacho lost that you fully campaigned for Heinz and Arnold.

Remember the *manhoben* gathering at former GOP president Dave Attao’s residence for Heinz and Arnold? It was you and some others who insisted to the other *mahoben* members to go to the Juan Pan/Joe Camacho pocket meeting that was going on a couple blocks up the street in Garapan, remember?

Isn’t it true that even independent candidates are political whores? They criticize and ridicule local Republicans like you but kiss butt during campaign season to get re-elected and then align with Democrats in the U.S.

Ben T. Benavente
As Lito, Saipan

Failure to yield

Repealing the mandatory driver’s academy because of costs is no excuse. Is it not that you could pay this course partially? Everyone and anyone who attended this school had just made our streets a little safer. Detractors tend to forget that this is the only way to get a valid license, not to mention valid skillful drivers on our rotten roads.

See, those reckless illegal taxies still driving at maximum speeds are sporting a license they obtained before the driving school opened or have gotten it illegally without going to class, putting everyone on the road at risk! They pose a threat to my family on the road and pedestrians alike.

This school ensures that any individual who takes the class understand “road rules” thoroughly. We can’t tolerate anyone getting licensed without understanding “road rules.” It’s not just obtaining an I.D that we are talking about here. It’s someone’s life on the line whenever we get behind the wheel.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Be responsible

The Legislature is amending or trying to amend the law regarding driver education. The Legislature is considering doing away with the required driving class as was established by law and instead to have the BMV conduct a driver education program. You may recall that the PSS stated publicly that it does not have the resources. So, the solution according to the Legislature, is to have BMV do it.

Can BMV do it? Do they have the funding? Do they have the staff? Do they have the facility? Did the Legislature consult with BMV to see if they have the capability?

It is bad enough that in this CNMI, if you are from Rota and Tinian, you do not have to take driver education before obtaining a driver’s license. Now, a good program appears to be on the way of being deleted.

Please leave good programs alone. Please look at the overall benefit to the community that this program is providing. By the way, driving is not a right; it is a privilege.






Let us be responsible.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

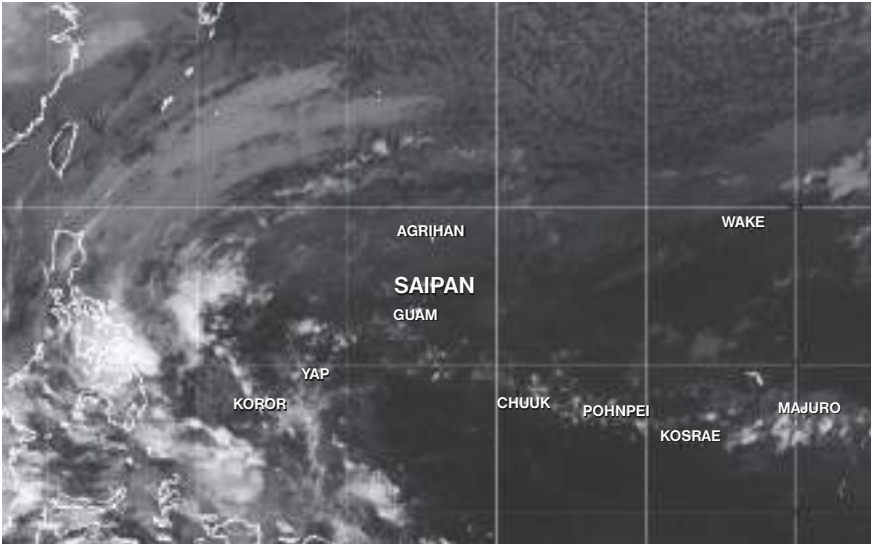
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia			
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Sunny	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe			
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼12
Hong Kong	Showers	▲56	▼45
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼35
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲85	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼61
New York	Showers	▲42	▼23
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼33
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼25
Rome	Showers	▲55	▼47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲24	▼12
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Washington, DC	Showers	▲48	▼31

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



120 130 140 150 160 170

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N178E to east of the cnmi at 16N155E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front and extensive cloudiness and scattered showers exist along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. Converging winds south of the shear line are generating scattered showers and thunderstorms just west of Koror between 6N and 12N from 130E to 134E. A surface trough runs southward from 4N140E to EQ144E. A near equatorial trough stretches eastward from 2N130E to EQ144E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap and Koror or south of a line from 1N145E to 6N130E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 9N and 4N from 166E to the date line and east of Chuuk and around Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 8N152E to 6N164E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Today	5:32 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Thursday	6:34 PM	6:44 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Friday	7:35 PM	7:34 AM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM	Saturday	8:35 PM	8:21 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM	Sunday	9:34 PM	9:06 AM

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6			C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily		
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily			C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6			DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)						OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN					
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily			OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7			OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only			CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM		
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau		
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau		
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM		
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota					FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily	
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily		FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily	
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily		FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily	
Guam-Rota					FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily	
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily		FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily	
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily		FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily		FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily		FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian					FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily		FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily		FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily		FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

Palacios joins new RNC chair in fete hosted by Taiwan



WASHINGTON, D.C.—

Following an exhaustive day of voting Friday at their

winter meeting, during which the 168-member Republican National Committee elected Reince Priebus to lead the party's battle to capture the White House next year, Northern Marianas Republican National Committeeman Roman "Bo" Palacios, Jr. and his guest, 2Lt. Annabelle Janiero, joined a small group of colleagues for a dinner hosted by the Taiwan ambassador to the U.S., Jason C. Yuan, in honor of Priebus and his wife, Sally.

Representing his RNC colleagues, National Committeewoman MaryLou Ada and party president Juan I. Tenorio, Palacios joined four other Caribbean and Pacific territories in casting the votes necessary to give Priebus a 97 to 43 vote victory over his nearest challenger in what had dwindled to a three-person race by the time of the seventh and final ballot in the balloting marathon.

"I feel Reince Priebus will be a great chairman," said Palacios of the 38-year-old new leader, "and he comes from a generation close to mine, so he will bring the youth that is sorely needed into the party."



TECRO PHOTOGRAPHER STEVE TAN

From left, Oregon Republican National Committeeman Solomon Yue, Samoan medical student Army 2LT Annabelle Janiero, Northern Marianas National Committeeman Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr., RNC Chairman Reince Priebus and wife Sally, American Samoa National Committeewoman Aumua Amata and Taiwan Ambassador Jason Yuan at Taiwan's Twin Oaks Estate in Washington, D.C.

"Chairman Steele was very generous to provide us with financial and technical resources for our 2009 campaign and to come all the way to Saipan to campaign for us last year. He kept his commitments and led our party to a tremendous victory across the nation in 2010," he said, "but members felt we needed to go in another direction to build on our successes in 2012. Members felt Reince

Priebus had a track record to raise the funds we need both to erase the debt and to build a big war chest for the 2012 campaign. Some of his many victories as chairman of the Wisconsin Republican Party included winning back the Governor's mansion and unseating an iconic liberal Democrat."

President Barack Obama is expected to spend \$1 billion towards his re-election next year.

The CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands each have three members on the RNC, which serves as a governing board for the national Republican Party. Unlike Democrats, which give its national committee's four members from the small territories only a quarter vote each and award American Samoa and the other small territories only fractional votes at their national con-

ventions, each state and territory has three full votes on the RNC and the territorial delegates cast full ballots at national conventions as well. CNMI Democrats are not affiliated nationally.

"Although we will help choose our party's nominee," said Palacios, "because we do not vote in the general presidential election, our main job will be to help Chairman Priebus and RNC reach out to Marianas-born voters in the states as part of our coalition."

Prior to Palacios' arrival in Washington, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-OH) held a private reception for RNC members at the meeting hotel. "Although I could not be there," said Palacios, "the Speaker graciously called me by phone Friday morning and we talked about getting to-

gether during my next trip to Washington. Given our financial situation in the CNMI and our need for help from Congress, it is important to take these opportunities to raise our profile with him. I want to be in a position to help the Commonwealth any way I can."

About 30 RNC members and their guests attended the Friday dinner at Taiwan's historic Twin Oaks estate in northwest Washington.

"I was happy to accept an invitation to an event at Twin Oaks," said Palacios, "because it is such a beautiful estate and Taiwan is such a good ally of the U.S. Taiwan has hosted numerous dinners for RNC leaders and members over the years and periodically invites senior members to Taiwan as guests of government. (PR)

CNMI artist to perform in Hawaii on Saturday

Saipan performing artist Parker Yobei is scheduled to fly to Hawaii today for a one-night only performance at the Oahu community center.

Yobei said he and famous Palauan singer Lisa Sandei will perform island music on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 7pm to midnight at the Pikake Room of the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, which has a capacity of 2,500 persons.

Tickets for the show cost \$20 for advance purchase and \$23 at the door.

"I was informed that the tickets are moving really fast. I'm really excited," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Yobei, this will be the second time that he will be performing at the center. The first one was in 2007 for an exclusive show.

Yobei said he will be performing some of the 28 new songs he has written for his next album,

due to be released this summer.

The Oahu show will also serve as a great way to promote his new songs and upcoming album, he said.

Yobei added that his visit to Hawaii will also be an opportunity for him to meet island music artist Kapena.

"I want to invite them to visit Saipan again for the Flame Tree Arts Festival," he said. (Clarissa V. David)

Jealousy allegedly prompts 2 men to beat up partners

Police arrested two men who allegedly assaulted their common-law wife and girlfriend out of jealousy in separate incidents in Garapan and Kagman over the weekend.

Brian Lee Reyes, 37, and Moses Elisabwet Doses, 46, were detained for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bail for Reyes was set at \$200 cash and \$1,800 unsecured bond; for Doses, it's set at \$300 cash and \$1,700 unsecured bond. Preliminary hearing will

be on Jan. 24, 2011, at 9am.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police arrested Reyes on Friday, shortly after his girlfriend flagged down a bike patrol officer near USS Peleliu Club in western Garapan at 2:02am to complain against him.

Pangelinan said preliminary investigation showed that Reyes became jealous after seeing his girlfriend talking with a male friend inside the USSP Club. He

accused her of cheating on him, grabbed her arm, pulled her out of the club and into their vehicle. Reyes also allegedly pulled the victim's hair.

The victim alighted from the car and, seeing a policewoman on bike patrol, flagged her down.

Police arrested Doses on Sunday shortly after receiving a call at 2:09am that he beat up his common-law wife at a residence in Kagman III.

Preliminary investigation

showed that Doses and the victim had just arrived home from her aunt's party in Kagman I when Doses accused the victim of fooling around at the party.

Doses allegedly punched the victim in the face and told her to get their children and move out of the house.

The victim took their children and went outside. She then instructed her 10-year-old son to proceed to a neighbor's house and call the police. (Ferdie de la Torre)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th birthday to our loving son, Joseph Jewel Kisa! Wishing you all the best, good health, happiness, and more birthdays to come! Lots of love from your Dad, Mom, and brother Joshua.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 39th birthday to a wonderful and beautiful mother, Julie dela Rosa, who is celebrating her special day today, Jan. 19. Your birthday means a lot to us. You're smart and strong and beautiful! That's why we send you this birthday wish: that all your dreams come true and may your life be filled with happiness, because we love you! With all our love, from Ray, Jerry, Jiana, and Kierstin.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEACH CLEANUP

Shirley's Coffee Shop held its first beach cleanup for 2011 at the Sugar Dock/Aquarius Beach Tower site yesterday. Some 21 Shirley's Coffee Shop employees and their relatives participated and about 85 lbs of trash were collected.

Business

Apple CEO Steve Jobs takes medical leave

SEATTLE (AP)—Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs, the charismatic frontman for the company that overturned the smart phone industry and invented a new category of tablet computers, is taking a second medical leave of absence in two years.

In the last decade, Jobs, 55, has survived a rare but curable form of pancreatic cancer and undergone a liver transplant. The news that he will again step down from his day-to-day role raises serious questions about the CEO's health.

But analysts believe the company Jobs shepherded from garage startup to a \$65 billion technology trendsetter is in good hands with the current slate of talented executives—even as Apple, now the Silicon Valley player to beat, faces increasing competition.

Jobs has played the role of industry oracle, seeming to know what consumers want even before they do. He is also known as a demanding and hands-on

leader who is involved in even the smallest details of product development. Investors have pinned much of their faith in the company on Jobs himself, sending shares tumbling on every bit of news or rumor of his ailing health.

For now, very little is known about Jobs' current condition. Apple did not provide any information beyond a six-sentence note from Jobs to employees announcing his leave, leaving unanswered questions about whether the CEO is acutely ill, whether the leave is related to his 2009 liver transplant or whether he is at home or in a hospital.

Unlike Jobs' 2009 leave of absence, when he vowed to return to work in just under six months, Jobs did not say in the note made public Monday how long he would be on leave this time. He said he will continue as CEO and will be involved in major decisions. Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook will be responsible for all day-to-day operations.

"I love Apple so much and



In a Oct. 14, 2004 file photo shows Apple CEO Steve Jobs gesturing in Palo Alto, Calif. just after he underwent cancer surgery in July, 2004.

hope to be back as soon as I can," Jobs wrote. "In the meantime, my family and I would deeply appreciate respect for our privacy."

The company announced Jobs' leave a day before the company is set to report quarterly earnings. U.S. stock markets were closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

In Europe, investors reacted sharply and Apple's shares closed in Frankfurt a staggering 6.6 percent lower at 243 euros (\$323.02).

While some analysts expect Apple shares to sink Tuesday in the U.S., many believe the company can function successfully even without Jobs in the corner office full-time—even with Apple at the forefront of a new revolution in personal computing.

In 2010, investors seemingly grew accustomed to Jobs' extreme thinness, focusing instead on the early success of the iPad with consumers. Shares increased 53 percent last year to top \$300. With Apple no doubt

polishing the second version of the iPad and competition among tablet makers expected to heat up this year and next, some stockholders may fear that without Jobs, Apple could lose its lead to tablets running Google Inc.'s Android software or Microsoft Corp.'s Windows.

Analysts believe Apple has plans for several years' worth of products in the pipeline. And Cook, who is seen as a logical eventual successor to Jobs, is no stranger to investors. He ran the Cupertino, Calif.-based company for two months in 2004 while Jobs battled pancreatic cancer, and again in 2009 during Jobs' most recent medical leave. Apple chugged along smoothly then, releasing a new version of the iPhone and updated laptops on schedule.

Since Cook, 50, began with Apple in 1998, he has been credited with tuning Apple's manufacturing process to solve chronic product delays and supply problems.

Europe debates overhaul of debt crisis response

BRUSSELS (AP)—The finance ministers of the 17 countries that use the euro are pressing ahead with an overhaul of their financial firefighting tools, but said a deal will require more debate over the coming weeks.

Following their first meeting of the year in Brussels on Monday, the currency union's top financial policymakers said they discussed "all the ingredients" of a comprehensive package to deal with the region's crippling debt crisis, which already has forced Greece and Ireland to implement painful budget cuts in exchange for multibillion euro bailouts.

"All the ingredients of the so-

lutions we have to form are on table," said Jean Claude Juncker, who heads the eurogroup. "The discussion was broad and will be narrowed in the next couple of weeks."

The centerpiece of any prospective deal will likely be an overhaul of Europe's euro750 billion (\$1 trillion) bailout fund, which was set up last spring alongside the euro110 billion bailout of Greece to soothe financial markets anxious over some countries' mounting debt levels. So far, it hasn't really convinced, with Ireland following Greece in the bailout club and mounting fears that the debt crisis could spread to Portugal and Spain.

Both the European Union's executive Commission and the European Central Bank have said that the fund needs more powers and more funds at its disposal to deal with any emergency that may arise. Such new powers could include the right to buy government bonds on the open market to support their prices and keep vulnerable countries' funding costs in check.

"We shall improve our current existing financial backstops so that the so-called market forces cannot even have the slightest doubt about our capacity to act even in the most stressed scenarios," said the EU's Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn.

Germany, the eurozone's effective paymaster, has so far ruled out any substantial increase of the fund's size. But German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble indicated that his country would be prepared to bolster the eurozone's contribution to the fund so it can actually lend out the full headline amount.

Eurozone governments make their euro440 billion contribution to the region's bailout fund by guaranteeing bonds issued by the so-called European Financial Stability Facility. The remaining euro310 billion come from the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund.

China unveils \$600M of US deals ahead of Hu visit

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese trade mission has signed \$600 million in deals with U.S. companies ahead of President Hu Jintao's visit to Washington this week and a separate delegation will look into other opportunities, the government said Tuesday.

China frequently announces such deals in connection with high-profile foreign trips by its leaders in hopes of creating a positive atmosphere for the visit. Hu is due to meet this week with U.S. President Bar-

ack Obama amid an array of strains over trade and Chinese currency controls.

The six deals signed Monday in Houston by a group of Chinese companies cover imports of porcelain and cotton and an agreement to collaborate on development of solar power equipment, the Cabinet said on its website. It gave no details of individual contracts.

The delegation was led by a deputy commerce minister, Wang Chao, the statement said.

"These six deals are just the start of further strengthening Chinese-U.S. economic cooperation," Wang was quoted as saying. He said the agreements were aimed at increasing Chinese imports of U.S. goods and investment in the United States.

Separately, the Ministry of Commerce announced that Wang also will lead a 500-member mission of Chinese businesspeople and trade officials to Chicago on Friday to look into other possible business deals.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airbus says it tops Boeing in plane orders in 2010

TOULOUSE, France (AP)—Airbus said Monday it took in 574 net new aircraft orders last year, beating rival Boeing Co. for the third year running as the international aviation market rebounded more strongly than expected from the steepest drop in its history. The Toulouse-based plane-making consortium said 2010 orders were worth \$74 billion at list prices, that it delivered a record 510 aircraft last year, and predicted even more deliveries this year. A year earlier, Airbus took in just 271 net orders as the global economic slowdown led airlines to cancel or delay existing orders and stop making new ones.

Starbucks expanding rollout of 31-ounce drink size

NEW YORK (AP)—The bigger-is-better concept seems to be striking a chord among some Starbucks customers. Starbucks will begin a phased-in nationwide rollout Tuesday of its Trenta cup size that can be filled with just shy of a quart's worth of iced beverages such as coffee, tea and lemonade.

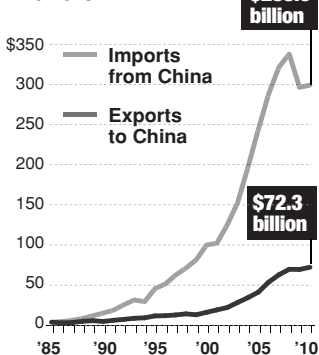
Starbucks Corp. says Trenta, which means 30 in Italian, will be 31 ounces and cost about 50 cents more than the 20-ounce Venti size. The new cups will be introduced Tuesday in 14 states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, Nevada and Arizona.

Goldman Sachs limits Facebook private offering

NEW YORK (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has prohibited U.S. investors from participating in a private offering expected to raise up to \$1.5 billion for social networking site Facebook, citing widespread media coverage that could run afoul of securities guidelines. The investment bank said Monday it decided to restrict the fund to prospective shareholders in Asia and Europe because it determined that the news coverage could be inconsistent with the laws that govern private placements. In a statement, Goldman Sachs said it made the decision on its own and "believes this is the most prudent path to take."

U.S.-China trade

Over the past 25 years, in billions:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Graphic: Judy Treible
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STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,787.40	1,293.24	2,755.30
55.48	9.48	20.01
+0.47%	+0.74%	+0.73%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Hong Kong Dollar	Philippine Peso
Australian Dollar	7.7777	44.6050
British Pound	45.5200	1.2868
Canadian Dollar	9,060.0	1,114.8
Chinese Yuan	82.5150	0.9608
Euro	3.0585	29.0280
	1.2956	30.6100

Nation

King's peace legacy praised after Ariz. shootings

ATLANTA (AP)—The nation observed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Monday with thousands volunteering for service projects and more reflecting on his lessons of nonviolence and civility in the week following the shootings in Arizona.

Six people were killed in Tucson and Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is fighting for her life. The violent outburst was a reminder to many gathered at King's former church in Atlanta that the Baptist preacher's message remained relevant nearly four decades after his own untimely death at the hands of an assassin.

Attorney General Eric Holder praised him as "our nation's greatest drum major of peace" and said the Jan. 8 bloodshed was a call to recommit to King's values of nonviolence, tolerance, compassion and justice.

"Last week a senseless rampage in Tucson reminded us that more than 40 years after Dr. King's own tragic death, our struggle to eradicate violence and to promote peace goes on," Holder said.

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle volunteered to paint for a service project at a middle school in Washington's Capitol Hill. He urged Americans to get out into their communities—a step he suggested would have special meaning following the shootings.

"After a painful week where so many of us were focused on the tragedy, it's good for us to remind ourselves of what this country is all about," he said.

National and local politicians joined members of the King family at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to mark what would have been the civil rights icon's 82nd birthday. Members of the King family also laid a wreath at the tombs of King and his widow, Coretta

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each January the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the slain U.S. civil rights leader, is observed as a national holiday:

Born

• Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta

Education

• Entered Morehouse College in Atlanta at age 15
• Divinity degree, Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pa.
• Ph.D. in theology, Boston University, 1955

Civil rights triumphs

• Founded Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 1957
• Organized 1963 march on Washington, where he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech
• Received Nobel Peace Prize, 1964, for his work as a civil rights leader

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Sources: "1999 Facts About Blacks: A Sourcebook of African-American Accomplishments," Raymond M. Cottin; "Milestones in 20th-Century African-American History," Alton Hornsby, Jr.; World Book; MCT Illustration Bank

Scott King, on the 25th anniversary of the federal holiday established to honor the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The largely African American audience of about 2,000 gathered at Ebenezer—where King preached from 1960 until his death in 1968—included parents and children, members of the clergy, politicians and footsoldiers of the civil rights movement.

Two of the Kings' four children, Martin Luther King III and the Rev. Bernice King attended Monday's ceremony. Their brother, Dexter King, was unable to attend the service because he is recovering from injuries he received in a car crash last year. Yolanda King,

the eldest of the King siblings, died in 2007. Bernice King is also president-elect of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which her father co-founded in 1957.

Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, who worked with King during the civil rights movement, issued a renewed call for Americans to unite in peace and love as King preached during his lifetime.

"If Dr. King could speak to us today, he would tell us that it does not matter how much we disapprove of another person's point of view, there is never a reason to deny another human being the respect he or she deserves," Lewis said.

Grand jury probes what Edwards knew about spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal criminal investigation targeting John Edwards is examining how much the two-time presidential candidate knew about money used to cover up his extramarital affair and out-of-wedlock child and whether other practices of his violated campaign finance laws, people involved in the case have told The Associated Press.

A federal grand jury in Raleigh, N.C., is sifting records and testimony involving several political organizations and individuals connected to Edwards to determine if the former North Carolina senator and 2004 vice presidential nominee broke any laws. A recently issued subpoena focuses on a web of

these Edwards-affiliated groups, according to subpoena details provided to the AP that offer a glimpse behind the closed doors of the investigation.

The case largely stems from money spent to keep Edwards' mistress, Rielle Hunter, in hiding along with former campaign aide Andrew Young, who initially claimed paternity so Edwards could continue pursuing the White House without the taint of the affair.

Investigators are looking chiefly at whether funds paid to Hunter and Young—from outside political groups and Edwards' political donors—should have been considered campaign donations since they arguably aided his presidential bid, according to several

people involved in the case who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing probe. They're also looking closely at whether any entities linked to Edwards operated illegally.

While it could not be learned if prosecutors have found violations of a specific statute, federal election laws require disclosure of the money spent on campaigns for federal offices, limit the amounts of such donations and prohibit the conversion of campaign funds to personal use.

Edwards' attorney Wade Smith would not discuss specifics but said, "We do not believe there is evidence that John has violated any election laws."

Husband: Giffords smiled and gave him neck rub

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The husband of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords says his wife's condition has improved so much that she has been able to smile and give him a neck rub as he has kept a near-constant vigil at her hospital bedside.

The interactions with astronaut Mark Kelly are new signs of Giffords' impressive progress in recovering from a gunshot wound to the head at a political event nine days ago. Giffords still cannot speak, because of a tube in her throat that is helping her breathe.

"She's in the ICU. You know, gone through this traumatic injury. And she spent 10 minutes giving me a neck massage," Kelly explained in an interview with Diane Sawyer to air Tuesday on ABC. "It's so typical of her that no matter how bad the situation might be for her, you know, she's looking out for other people."

Such encounters indicate higher levels of functioning, implying that "she's recognizing him and interacting, perhaps in an old familiar way with him," said Dr. Michael Lemole.

Dr. Randall Friese said Kelly also told doctors he saw Giffords smile. He said sometimes people see what they want to see, but that "if he says she's smiling, I buy it."

Kelly has also been essential in helping Giffords' staff through the tragedy, said Mark Kimble, a Tucson staff member who stood only a few feet from Giffords when she was shot.

"There is not a doubt in his mind and not a doubt in any of our minds that she's going to be back," Kimble said. "He's been cheering us up. He'll come over and when we're down, he'll say, 'Gabby's going to make it, Gabby's a little better today.' That's a big help to all of us."

The steady progress for Giffords came on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to remember the legacy of the civil rights leader who was killed by an assassin's bullet 42 years ago.

Political leaders invoked the assassination attempt against Giffords as they asked Americans to recommit to King's values of nonviolence, tolerance, compassion and justice.

"Last week a senseless rampage in Tucson reminded us that more than 40 years after Dr. King's own tragic death, our struggle to eradicate violence and to promote peace goes on," Attorney General Eric Holder said at King's former church in Atlanta.

Doctors upgraded Giffords' condition from critical to serious over the weekend and say they carried out three successful procedures that demonstrate she is recovering well.

A breathing tube was moved from her mouth to her throat along with a separate feeding tube that was shifted from her nose to her stomach. Dr. Randall Friese said removing the tubes in her nose and mouth reduces the risks of infections.



This photo provided by ABC television shows Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' husband and NASA astronaut Capt. Mark Kelly talks with host Diane Sawyer during a pretaped interview in Tucson, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, his first television interview since the tragic shooting of his wife in Tucson.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tired of snow, Northeast adds sleet, freezing rain

NEW YORK (AP)—After two major blasts of snow, the Northeast faces more brutal winter weather: snow, sleet and freezing rain. Up to 3 inches of snow, rain and ice threaten to ruin Tuesday morning rush hour travel in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. After a Christmas weekend blizzard dumped 20 inches of snow on New York City, Mayor Michael

Bloomberg was criticized for the slow cleanup. This time his Department of Sanitation says it has salt spreaders ready.

Philly police announce arrest in stranglings case

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A man recently released from prison and believed to have been wandering the streets and staying in abandoned homes was arrested Monday night af-

ter being linked by DNA to the sexual assaults and strangling deaths of three women in a gritty, high-crime section of the city, police said. Antonio Rodriguez, 21, was taken into custody on an unrelated bench warrant after someone phoned in a tip, police said. The arrest came shortly after a news conference at which Capt. James Clark said Rodriguez was being sought as a "strong" person of interest in the murders in the Kensington section, a few

miles north of downtown.

Suburban Detroit officer, suspect die in shootout

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP)—Authorities say a veteran police officer and a home burglary suspect have been killed in an exchange of gunfire in suburban Detroit. Livonia police Chief Robert Stevenson said during a news conference Monday night that Officer Larry Nehasil was killed in a shootout with

two suspects around 6 p.m. Monday. The shooting happened in Walled Lake, which is about 10 miles from Livonia. Stevenson said the suspects were trying to break into a house when police tried to arrest them. The suspect who survived the shooting was taken into custody. Stevenson said 48-year-old Nehasil had worked for the agency for 20 years. He says it's the first time in the department's history that an officer has been shot to death.

Asia

Towns in southeast Australia prepare for flooding

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Knee-deep water inundated communities in south-eastern Australia on Tuesday as electricity companies warned that further cuts there were likely if more power stations were submerged by floodwaters.

The floods reached into the state of Victoria at the weekend following weeks of flooding that ravaged Queensland to the north and swamped a major city.

In Victoria, the city of Horsham was keeping a close eye on its Wimmera River, expected to peak later Tuesday but already overflowing into the streets and putting 600 homes at risk.

“You can’t control nature totally, but I think to the extent we had about three or four days

warning and we have an experienced emergency team, I think we’re going as well as we can,” Mayor Michael Ryan said of the sandbagging and evacuations conducted in recent days.

Horsham official David Eltringham said the town was expecting “a one-in-a-100-year flood.”

More than 3,500 people have evacuated their homes in north-central Victoria state, with 51 towns and 1,500 properties already affected by rising waters.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Tuesday announced the formation of a business task force to assist with rebuilding devastated infrastructure in the worst-affected state.

“The purpose of bringing leading corporate identities

together ... is to further leverage corporate support for the recovery and rebuilding in Queensland,” Gillard told reporters in Melbourne.

She said a day earlier that the floods that ravaged Queensland could be the country’s most expensive natural disaster ever.

The death toll from Queensland’s disaster was 30, most of whom died in a flash flood that hit towns west of the state capital, Brisbane. The flooding in the state left a vast territory underwater, inundated 30,000 homes and businesses and left 12 people missing.

The price tag from the relentless floods was already at \$5 billion before muddy brown waters swamped Brisbane last week.

Taiwan’s public missile test fizzles

JIUPENG, Taiwan (AP)—President Ma Ying-jeou presided Tuesday over the unusually public test firing of 19 surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles, but about a quarter missed their targets, earning his dismay and raising new questions about Taiwan’s readiness to defend itself against Chinese attack.

The exercise followed last week’s successful test flight of China’s next generation J-20 stealth aircraft, a system expected to further widen its growing edge over Taiwan’s own equipment-starved air force.

Ma’s presence at the base in southern Taiwan where the missile test was conducted was meant to underscore his commitment to the maintenance of an effective Taiwanese deterrent, but the poor performance clearly disappointed him.

“I’m not satisfied with the results,” he told reporters when the test was concluded. “I hope the military will find out the reasons and improve its training.”

The missile test was the first to be held in full view of the press for almost a decade. It was

meant, Ma said, “to bring more transparency into military affairs and allow the public to view the military’s readiness.”

But under a cloud-speckled winter sky, five of the missiles failed to hit their targets, including one RIM-7M Sparrow, which cascaded harmlessly into the South China Sea less than 30 seconds after launch. Other missiles tested included Sky Bow IIs—which have a range of 125 miles (200 kilometers)—MIM-23 Hawks and FIM-92 Stingers.

Following China’s well-publicized test of the J-20 last week, the normally pro-government United Daily News questioned Ma’s policy of shifting the military’s main mission away from national defense and toward disaster relief, commenting that “the more important mission for the military is to defend (Taiwan) against threats.”

The shift in military priorities, unveiled in the immediate wake of a devastating typhoon in August 2009, reflects Ma’s belief that his continuing efforts to lower tensions with China—

the main theme of his 2 1/2-year-old administration—make war across the 100-mile- (160-kilometer-)wide Taiwan Strait less likely than ever before.

The two sides split amid civil war in 1949, and since then Beijing has reserved the right to invade the democratic island of 23 million people if it moves to make its de facto independence permanent—something Ma opposes.

Defense expert Wang Kao-cheng of Taipei’s Tamkang University said one purpose of Tuesday’s missile test may have been to encourage the United States to sell Taiwan the 66 relatively advanced F-16 jet fighters that top its military wish list.

Washington says it is considering the request, but bitter Chinese opposition to the deal has delayed its implementation for more than two years.

“The Taiwan government may be using this exercise to send a message to the U.S. that its air defense is facing mounting pressure as China continues to develop the new generation of fighter jets,” Wang said.

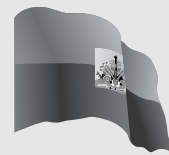
have used tough language against North Korea after two deadly attacks last year killed dozens of people. But it’s still rare for a top Seoul official to speak publicly on a potential North Korean collapse and shows the South’s growing impatience with its communist neighbor.

Minibus bombing in NW Pakistan kills 19

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb ripped apart a minibus in a volatile part of northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing all 17 people on board and two others in a nearby vehicle, police said. The bus was traveling between the cities of Hangu and Kohat close to Pakistan’s lawless tribal region. Islamist militants frequently carry out attacks in the area against both civilians and security forces. Hangu police chief Abdur Rasheed said the bomb that destroyed the bus contained high explosives, and the blast was especially deadly because the bomb detonated the vehicle’s gas cylinder. Authorities initially thought the gas cylinder alone caused the explosion.

World

New twist to Haiti’s latest woes



Like father, like son

Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier has come out of exile in France, returning to Haiti. A look at this despot and his notorious father:

Francois ‘Papa Doc’ Duvalier

Early life

Born 1907, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Education Medical degree from Haitian National University Medical School, 1934; studied at University of Michigan, 1944-45

From medicine to politics

1946-50 Minister of health and labor under President Dumarsais Estime

1950 Returns to medicine after opposing the government takeover by Paul Magloire; eventually goes into hiding in the countryside

1956 Emerges from hiding; elected president on a populist, black nationalist platform

Tyrannical leader

1957 Assumes presidency and soon creates the Tonton Macoutes (“bogeyman”), or secret police; repressive rule based on intimidation, military force, the cult of personality and voodoo, causing many Haitians, especially the educated, to flee

1961 Reelected in what many assume was a fraudulent election

1964 Has constitution changed; declares himself “president for life”

1971 Directs National Assembly to alter the constitution so his son can succeed him; dies soon after

Jean-Claude ‘Baby Doc’ Duvalier

Early life

Born 1951, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Education Raised in an isolated environment; read the law under several professors from University of Haiti

World’s youngest president

1971 Assumes the presidency upon the death of his father, invested with near-absolute power

• Like his father, he calls himself “president for life” and continues repressive rule, aided by the brutal Tonton Macoutes

• Alleged corruption, human rights abuses, a failing economy prompt more than 100,000 Haitians to flee

• Popular protests forced him to leave the country in 1986; shortly before leaving, he insisted he remained “stiff as a monkey’s tail,” a Haitian Creole expression

Life in exile

2007 Asks Haitian people for forgiveness in a radio interview while living in France

2011 Returns to Haiti as the country is about to choose a president in a runoff election

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Source: BBC, Infoplease.com,
Encyclopedia of World Biography
Graphic: Pat Carr

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP)—Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier ensconced himself Monday in a high-end hotel following his surprise return to a country deep in crisis, leaving many to wonder if the once-feared strongman will prompt renewed conflict in the midst of a political stalemate.

Duvalier met with allies inside the hotel in the hills above downtown Port-au-Prince and spoke publicly only through emissaries, who gave vague explanations for his sudden and mysterious appearance—nearly 25 years after he was forced into exile by a popular uprising against his brutal regime.

Henry Robert Sterlin, a former ambassador who said he was speaking on behalf of Duvalier, portrayed the 59-year-old former “president for life,” as merely a concerned elder statesmen who wanted to see the effects of the devastating Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake on his homeland.

“He was deeply hurt in his soul after the earthquake,” Sterlin said. “He wanted to come back to see how is the actual Haitian situation of the people and the country.”

Duvalier—who assumed power in 1971 at age 19 following the death of his father, Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier—still has some support

Violence-scarred Tunisia announces new govt

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia took a step toward democracy and reconciliation Monday, promising to free political prisoners and opening its government to opposition forces long shut out of power—but the old guard held onto the key posts, angering protesters.

Demonstrators carrying signs reading “GET OUT!” demanded that the former ruling party be banished altogether—a sign more troubles lie ahead for the new unity

government as security forces struggle to contain violent reprisals, shootings and looting three days after the country’s longtime president fled under pressure from the streets.

“We’re afraid that the president has left, but the powers-that-be remain,” said Hylel Belhassen, a 51-year-old insurance salesman. Even before the new government was announced Monday, security forces fired tear gas to repel demonstrators who see the

change of power as Tunisia’s first real chance at democracy.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled Friday to Saudi Arabia after a month of protests over unemployment and corruption led to his downfall after 23 years in power. The government announced Monday that 78 civilians have died in the month of unrest—an announcement that underlined the depth of the violence in the usually placid Mediterranean tourist destination.

WORLD BRIEFS

Prosecutors: Berlusconi had many prostitutes

ROME (AP)—Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi had sex with a significant number of prostitutes, Milan prosecutors alleged Monday in documents seeking authorization to search some of his properties. The prosecutors are leading a probe aimed at determining if the 74-year-old media mogul paid for sex with a 17-year-old Moroccan girl nicknamed Ruby who attended parties at one of his villas last year. Prostitution isn’t a crime in Italy, but exploiting or aiding prostitution with minors is. The prosecutors alleged in documents examined by a parliamentary committee Monday that Berlusconi had sex with a “significant” number of young female prostitutes and used apartments to compen-

sate the women, along with cash payments.

UN agency warns of shortfall in fight on hunger

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The World Food Programme is nearly \$3 billion short this year in its fight against global hunger, and the gap is likely to grow if food prices keep rising, the head of the U.N. agency said in an interview Monday. Josette Sheeran said the shortfall amounts to almost half of what the agency needs. Sheeran spoke to The Associated Press after touring the Palestinian city of Hebron, where she inspected an electronic food voucher project meant to streamline distribution of food to the needy. The system was first tried out in the West Bank in 2009 and has since been introduced in several other places.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam’s Communist Party selects new leaders

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam’s ruling Communist Party has chosen its elite Central Committee as a party meeting held once every five years heats up to pick top leaders. Nearly 1,400 delegates to the party congress met Monday to vote for the new 200-member committee, which is scheduled to select a new party boss and all-powerful Politburo later Tuesday. Nguyen Phu Trong, 66, current chairman of the lawmaking National Assembly, is expected to be named general secretary to replace Nong Duc Manh, 70. Trong has been the party’s chief Marxist theorist and is considered a moderate.

SKorea: Nuclear push could bring North’s collapse

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Impoverished North Korea could bring its own collapse if it keeps pouring scarce national resources into its nuclear weapons program and military, a senior South Korean official warned in an interview to be broadcast Monday. South Korean officials

Focus

By ALICIA CHANG and JULIE WATSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The harrowing first week is over. Now, as the national focus drifts away and a quietness returns to this laid-back college city, the profound pain is settling in as victims of last weekend's shooting spree—and their tight-knit community—enter the toughest part of their healing process.

There are the parents who lost their 9-year-old daughter. A wife who will live with the haunting memory of her husband's dying moments, filled with her loving whispers after he used his body to shield her from the bullets. A 20-year-old intern for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords stamped with the mental images of holding her to his chest and trying to stop the bleeding after a bullet passed through her head.

And then there's the city of Tucson, a picturesque desert community of sun-bronzed university students, retirees and artists that prides itself on being open-minded now linked to a heinous crime.

"I happened to get hit by bullets and all of you, especially those who were there, you got wounded too," said Giffords' aide Pam Simon, 63, who was shot twice, as she met with survivors, witnesses and community members.

The months to come will determine the lasting impact of those wounds, not only for the residents of Tucson but the



In this Jan. 8, 2011 file photo, Gia, center, Georgia, left, and John Cobb, of Tucson, embrace outside the office of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords after Giffords was shot at a grocery store in Tucson, Ariz.

Vicky Dotson, 38, watched her 11-year-old daughter, Emmalee, place pebbles on the ground to leave a message outside Christina's funeral service: "Forever Young, Christina. Never Forget. 9/11/01-1/8/11" and wondered how to explain it all.

"You kind of wait for them to ask questions, if they have questions. They obviously know it's a bad thing," she said. "Beware of your surroundings, that's one of the first things I told her."

Emmalee swam with Christina on the YMCA swim team but did not know her well. Still, her death has affected her in unexpected ways.

"I've just been scared going out and it's just been sad," said Emmalee, adding that she's also had bad dreams.

Christina's father, John Green, told the Boston Globe that some of his daughter's organs had been donated to a Boston area girl, news that "really lifted" the family's spirits.

There are many keys to solace and recovery, experts say.

"In a lot of ways you don't really know what the overall impact is for a very long time," said the University of Colorado's Woodward. "You don't know what the impact was on the community as a whole."

The same is true of the political process, he said. "How many people are still going to be wanting to go to political events? What kind of security is

With shock subsiding, pain sets in for AZ victims

country itself, which has spent a week reflecting on whether a divisive political atmosphere, angry rhetoric or loose gun laws might have intersected with a dangerously mentally ill young man in Tucson.

And what of suspected gunman Jared Loughner's parents, who have remained secluded in their modest home, issuing only a brief statement expressing sorrow? Questions as to why he fired on the crowd that Jan. 8 morning may never be fully answered.

"This was a combat situation that hit people not prepared for combat," said Dr. Paul Ragan, a Vanderbilt University expert on gunshot victims. "There really is this profound assault on one's own sense of certainty in life and safety."

Survivors have found a sense of peace from the community's overwhelming support, rolling their wheelchairs past the cards, candles, and flowers blanketing the hospital lawn.

They also are consoled by the moments of human goodness—the heroic feat of the men who tackled the gunman, the woman who grabbed his empty magazine and the strangers who scampered under the hail of gunfire to help the wounded.

Most uplifting has been the remarkable recovery so far of Giffords, who opened her eyes, grabbed her husband's arm and appeared to try to hug him Wednesday night after President Barack Obama visited her hospital room.

Many of the 13 victims have undergone multiple surgeries and face months, possibly years, of physical therapy.

Survivors recognize the body often heals more quickly than the mind.

"The wounds in our heart are a lot, lot deeper," Simon said. "They aren't going to heal in a long time."

Jenny Douglas, the daughter of Gif-

fords' aide Ron Barber, 65, who was shot three times, said her father "remembers it all, very clearly."

Mavy Stoddard, 75, who was shot in the leg three times, also remembers. Her husband, Dorwin, 76, dove to the ground and covered her when the shooting started. She talked to him for 10 minutes, while he breathed heavily after being shot in the head. Then his breathing stopped. The two grade school sweethearts had lost contact and then found each other again after both retired in Tucson, falling in love.

Steve Siegel, of the Denver District Attorney's office, has seen the long-term fallout after helping people in the aftermath of the country's most horrific crimes—from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings.

Some have been unable to function, losing jobs, turning to alcohol and drugs, even attempting suicide. Every time a tragedy occurs somewhere it can trigger their traumatic feelings—an actual chemical response in their bodies.

Trauma, he says, acts like a stone dropped in water, rippling out far beyond the crime scene: Within 48 hours of the Columbine massacre, all youth beds at mental health facilities across Colorado were filled. Many were teens

shaken by the news clips of the chaos.

More than two years later, some 600 people were still seeking help to cope, said Bill Woodward of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the

University of Colorado at Boulder.

Doctors say some of the victims could experience a near-constant mental replaying of the attack outside the Safeway grocery store that left six dead. They may develop irrational fears, worrying obsessively that Loughner could escape and harm them again. A few might find they can't even drive past any Safeway.

When Bill Hileman went to see his wife Susan in the hospital after the shooting he found her in a morphine-induced haze, screaming out: "Chris-

tina! Christina! Let's get out of here. Let's get out of here."

Susan Hileman, 58, was holding the hand of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the youngest of those killed, as they waited to see Giffords when the shooting erupted.

In a disturbing turn of events involving another shooting victim, J. Eric Fuller, 63, was arrested Saturday after allegedly making threatening comments at an ABC News forum to which he'd been invited. Authorities said Fuller, a military veteran, would be "involuntarily committed" for mental health evaluation after confronting a local tea party official with the words, "You're dead."

A team of psychiatrists and social workers is working to counsel the patients

and their families.

"We've got to bring them back as a whole human being," said the victims' chief trauma doctor, Dr. Peter Rhee, who has treated soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Countless others may need the help, too: There are those who escaped the gunfire unscathed, the police officers and emergency crews who witnessed the carnage, the Safeway workers, the neighbors and friends of both the victims and the assailant, and the community as a whole.



In this file photo combo, victims killed at a political event with Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 are shown. From top left, Christina Taylor Green, 9, Dorothy Morris, 76, Arizona Federal District Judge John Roll, 63, and from bottom left, Phyllis Schneck, 79, Dorwin Stoddard, 76, and Gabe Zimmerman, 30.

there going to be there?"

So far officeholders and constituents outside Arizona appear to be emboldened by the tragedy. Less than a week after the shooting at Giffords' public "Congress on Your Corner" meet-and-greet, similar gatherings across the country resumed under greater police presence, drawing large crowds.

Democratic Rep. Shelley Berkley called her Las Vegas office's open house a stand against violence, noting America's political climate is at a crossroads.

"The reality is, we haven't been behaving very well as leaders of our nation," Berkley told The Associated Press. "I hope this is a turning point."

Obama, at Wednesday night's memorial service, implored a divided America to honor the victims by becoming a better country.

That may be easier said than done, as even the memorial where Obama spoke produced controversy, with some conservatives insisting it appeared to be an event scripted by the White House. Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs denied that, and the University of Arizona said it had done the planning.

Political scientist Dan Shea says ideological blogs, cable news, radio shows and other mediums are wrapping voters in a "partisan cocoon." That's not going away, but he is optimistic lessons will be learned from the shooting.

"I think people will be watching elected officials more closely," said Shea, of the Center for Political Participation at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. "I think it will hold them accountable for their rhetoric and that we'll celebrate those who are passionate but also respectful in their discourse and punish those who cross the line."

There is a long journey of healing ahead.

Campus Life

In tight economy, new focus on job-oriented certificates

By JOANNE JACOBS
THE HECHINGER REPORT

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Omid Khofasani wants to be a pharmacist—without taking on huge student loans.

So the 35-year-old is paying about \$1,700 for a nine-month course at nearby Foothill College that leads to a pharmacy technician certificate and a chance to earn a solid middle-class wage of up to \$60,000 a year as he works his way through pharmacy school.

"It's short, it's fast and it's cheap," says Khofasani, who earned an engineering degree in Iran but now works at a carpet store.

Labor economists and some educators believe career-driven degrees should become an increasingly common choice and are advising students to pursue skills-oriented fields of study they feel offer better job opportunities. Fueling the trend is the worst economic decline in more than 70 years and a slowly falling unemployment rate of 9.4 percent. Add to that the staggering total of \$830 billion in student debt nationally.

"The recession has brought in clear focus the value of a career versus a job," said Willis Holcombe, chancellor of Florida's fast-growing community college system. A new report based on the state's employment data shows that students who earn certificates or associate of science degrees make more money in their first year out of college than four-year graduates of Florida's university system.

The unemployment numbers are "a powerful case for some postsecondary credential, not just going to classes, but completing a credential," Holcombe said. "If you want to insulate yourself against unemployment, you need a career."

The national unemployment rate for four-year college graduates is 4.8 percent, compared with 9.8 percent for those with

only a high school diploma.

President Barack Obama wants the U.S. to lead the world in college degrees by 2020, with all Americans completing at least one year of postsecondary education, which is seen as the dividing line between living in poverty and a shot at a middle-class lifestyle.

Nationally, 27 percent of people with licenses and certificates also earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient, according to Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Carnevale's newest data show that at least half of all anticipated job opportunities in the next seven years will be open to "middle-skill" workers like pharmacy technicians—what Khofasani will be after he passes a certification exam. Training for such jobs is offered at both community colleges and for-profit career and trade schools.

Middle-skills jobs require more than a high school diploma but less than a college degree, along with significant education and training—and they make up roughly half of all U.S. jobs, according to the Urban Institute, a nonprofit policy research organization based in Washington, D.C.

Carnevale says higher education needs to shift its focus to producing workers with degrees and certificates that the work force needs, although he acknowledges that ultimately, "the higher your education level, the more you'll earn."

By 2018, the U.S. will need 22 million new employees with post-secondary degrees of some kind.

Middle-skill workers in demand will likely include plumbers, electricians, health care workers, legal assistants, machinists and police officers. Such jobs require strong math, communications and science knowledge, in addition to "soft skills" like the ability to

solve problems in teams. They do not necessarily require a four-year, or even a two-year, college degree.

Students "are choosing lower-level alternatives that may have a high yield in the work force," said Julian Alssid, founder and executive director of Workforce Strategy Center, a nonprofit think tank that works to develop effective education and employment policies. "People can get good jobs with targeted training.



SACRAMENTO BEE/MCT

Tera Rudkosky, pictured March 27, 2009, is an alum of Heald College. She studied medical assisting and now works as a medical assistant at Turnure Medical Group in Rocklin, California.

Targeted credentials are as good as broader, generalized degrees, especially at the entry level."

And nationally, enrollments have surged 17 percent since last year at community colleges, which charge far less than most four-year institutions, showing that more students are aware of the risks of incurring debt, said Alssid.

Certificates aligned with specific skills can take less than a year and be "trajectory-changing" for average and below-average students, said Brian Bosworth, president of FutureWorks, a consulting and policy

development firm based in Seattle, and author of the 2010 report "Certificates Count."

Bosworth said completion rates for certificates are twice or even three times as high as graduation rates for two-year degrees.

"I would not advise a student to go to a four-year college if they're not confident about their skills and the family is under economic pressure," he said.

Some community college

than associate degrees, and 75 percent go on to middle-skills jobs, Bosworth said. All programs prepare students for immediate employment.

"Quick-win certificates can be the first step on a degree ladder to associate and bachelor's degrees," said James Rosenbaum, a professor of education and social policy at Northwestern University in Chicago.

It should be no surprise that certificate-holders can earn as much or more than those with bachelor's degrees, said Richard Vedder, an economist and founder of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a nonprofit research center in Washington, D.C.

"These certificates are targeted to vocations, usually in demand," he said. "The huge earning-gains people associate with four-year degrees are dissipating."

Nursing, medical technology and other health care jobs are growing rapidly, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even in Michigan, where the unemployment rate is 12.4 percent—tied with California for the second-highest nationally—those with associate degrees in nursing and allied health fields can find jobs, said James Jacobs, president of Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich.

Carnevale of Georgetown notes that while "plastics" was the word for jobs of the future in the 1967 film "The Graduate," today's equivalent term is "health care," including nursing, medical technology, dental hygiene and other health care support jobs.

An associate degree in nursing, at a time when baby boomers are retiring, is now "the closest thing there is to a sure thing," Carnevale said.

Advanced manufacturing and engineering technicians with a certificate or associate of applied science degree are in demand too, said Alssid of the Workforce Strategy Center. And middle-

skill workers also are finding jobs in high-tech manufacturing, construction and the energy industry, says Rachel Unruh of the National Skills Coalition, based in Washington, D.C.

But hurdles to degree and certificate completion remain.

Some two thirds of community-college students aren't ready for college-level courses, and 69 percent of those placed in remedial math never move beyond it, according to the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teachers College. The three-year graduation rate is just 28 percent for community-college students, data from the National Center for Education Statistics show.

"Huge numbers of people who go to community college get nothing out of it," said Bosworth of FutureWorks. Students are far more likely to succeed if they start by earning a certificate and then return for more training when they're ready, Bosworth said.

A vocational certificate is a more realistic goal than a bachelor's degree for students with mediocre grades, advises Rosenbaum of Northwestern. In one research study, just 19 percent of high school seniors with a C average or below went on to earn a post-secondary credential of any kind.

"They've been told everybody can go to college," Rosenbaum said. "But not everybody can take college classes when they get there."

Vedder agrees. While A students should go for a bachelor's degree, "most C students won't make it through to a four-year degree but they probably could make it through a one-year or two-year course" that would lead to a decent job, he said.

Liz Willen contributed to this story, which was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, nonpartisan education-news outlet affiliated with Teachers College, Columbia University.

TOKYO—A growing number of university entrance examinees are aiming to join Japanese universities that will help them acquire a teacher's license or other vocational qualifications likely to improve their chances of finding a job amid uncertain economic times.

As two-day unified college entrance examinations, known as the National Center Test, started at 706 venues across Japan Saturday, job prospects were on the minds of many examinees.

"At any rate, I want to be a public servant," said Kota Matsuura, 19, at the University at Tokyo in Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo. "Civil servant jobs are stable even in a recession,

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TESTS START IN JAPAN

Courses offering vocational courses popular

and are quite popular among my friends," Matsuura said he wants to study law and become a public servant.

Misato Toyoda, 18, said she wants to get a qualification she can use as a child-care worker. "When considering the universities I want to apply to, I closely checked if I can get a qualification and if graduates of those universities have good employment rates," Toyoda said.

Ippe Maeda, 18, who took the test at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, said his first choice is a state-run university in Kanto.

"I heard there are more job opportunities in Kanto than in Kyushu," he said. "That's one reason why I chose the university."

The number of university students receiving tentative job offers before they graduate has been particularly low in Kyushu.

At Nagoya University, Masaki Sato said his first choice is an education department of a state-run university. Sato, 19, hopes to become a physical education teacher. He said competition among job seekers on the employment front and

concern about the gloomy economic situation were reasons for his choice.

"A school teacher is a stable job. I want to be a good teacher," he said.

Besides science, engineering, agriculture and medical departments, university departments that offer qualifications as teachers or nurses have received considerable interest, according to several major cram schools.

Some examinees, however, remain convinced that following their passion remains the best option, rather than being

preoccupied with short-term considerations.

"The economy can change pretty quickly," Hisaki Nagase, 18, said at Kyoto University. "Rather than choosing a department more likely to land me a job under the current economic situation, I really want to study science—and I intend to throw myself into my studies."

Nagase's view was echoed by an 18-year-old female student taking the test at Kobe University.

"I've no idea how the economy will be when I start looking

for a job three or four years from now. I'll choose a major that I really want to study so I don't have any regrets," she said.

Inspired by Japanese Nobel Prize laureates or the gripping journey of the Hayabusa space probe, a growing number of female students are opting to take science courses at universities.

Science courses have tended to be dominated by male students, but venues conducting the National Center Test said more female examinees than usual were among the test-takers this year.

Some universities have even set aside rooms exclusively for women students to make them feel even more welcome. (*The Yomiuri Shimbun*)

Life & Style

Century-old scotch returned from Antarctic trip

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Some people brag about serving scotch whisky that's 15 years old. But three bottles of Mackinlays scotch flown to Scotland by private jet Monday date back to the late 19th century.

The bottles are linked to famed explorer Ernest Shackleton's Nimrod expedition in 1907. They were found last year in a crate that had been buried beneath a basic hut Shackleton had used during his dramatic excursion, more formally known as the British Antarctic Expedition.

The crate itself was, unsur-

prisingly, frozen solid after more than a century beneath the Antarctic surface.

But the precious bottles were found intact, and researchers could hear the whisky sloshing around inside. Antarctica's minus 22 Fahrenheit (-30 Celsius) temperature was not enough to freeze the liquor, dating from 1896 or 1897, and experts said it was in remarkably good condition.

And probably tasty too: It is common in London's look-at-me bars to sell some aged cognacs for 50 pounds (\$80) a glass or more, but none of Shackleton's stash will be put on this private market, so no one will know how much consumers would have paid for such a

historic dram.

The bottles, part of a cache of 11 bottles found, were judged too valuable to be returned to Scotland on a commercial flight—for reasons frequent travelers can understand—so they were flown back in the private jet of Vijay Mallya, owner of Whyte & Mackay's, which bought Mackinlays some years ago.

The Mackinlays whisky will be studied and tasted in a lab for six weeks before being returned to Shackleton's hut under the floorboards of Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds on Ross Island, near Antarctica's McMurdo Sound.

The lab findings will be sent to the Antarctic Heritage Trust.

Golden Globe parties packed with celebrating stars

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The kids of "Glee" and "The Social Network" weren't just all right after the Golden Globe Awards, they were downright giddy at several post parties, making a scene singing, dancing and celebrating their wins during one of Hollywood's most booze-and-boogie-filled nights.

Stars spilled into multiple soirees spread around the Beverly Hilton Hotel after Sunday's awards ceremony, indulging in champagne, upscale comfort food and mutual back-patting into the wee hours.

Just before midnight, half of the young cast of "Glee" huddled together, strutted their moves and belted along to Journey's "Don't Stop Believin,'" blasted by a DJ at the Warner Bros. bash with In Style magazine at the hotel's Oasis courtyard. The hit musical Fox show won the trophy for television's best comedy or musical for its second year in a row.

Twenty-year-old Chris Colfer, who snagged a supporting actor award for his role as a gay teen on the show, clutched his trophy in one hand and swayed to the tune, which "Glee" made more famous covering. "Chris winning this year was like us winning last year. It was a shock. We all cried," gushed castmate Kevin McHale, 22. "We all really are best friends in real life."

Towering over other revelers, 24-year-old actor Armie Hammer of "The Social Network" also shimmied to the music, and toasted the film about Facebook's founding, the night's big winner with trophies for best drama, best direction, best script and best score.

Standing in a smoking area outside the party's large black tent—shimmery metal orbs were suspended from the ceil-

ing as chandeliers—Hammer mused about his being a first-timer to the Globes, where guests schmooze both during and after the ceremony.

"It levels the playing field. It's like, there's Darren Aronofsky, and I say, 'I love your work!' And he's like, 'I love the Social Network!'" said Hammer, laughing, about meeting "The Black Swan" director. As for when he would end his long night, Hammer joked, "I'm a nonstop party."

Other guests included Heidi Klum, Seal, Ryan Phillippe and Hayden Panettiere.

At the annual roof party hosted by NBC, Universal Pictures and Focus Features, a mostly industry crowd packed the dance floor while a DJ spun funk and hip-hop, as a live MC rapped. The spread included mini grilled cheese sandwiches, mashed potatoes and mac 'n' cheese.

Earlier in the evening, A-listers flocked to The Weinstein Company's party with Relativity Media, presented by Marie Claire magazine, at the lot adjacent to Bar 210, formerly Trader Vic's. Modest decorations included vases of roses and flickering candles.

As studio head Harvey Weinstein milled around shaking hands with guests, "The King's Speech" best actor winner Colin Firth settled into an outdoor booth in the back with his wife and his co-star Guy Pearce. Co-star Helena Bonham Carter, surrounded by a thick throng of fans, joined later.

Firth, calm and self-deprecating, with his trophy on the table and a tumbler in hand, accepted compliments, but joked "I don't have many accomplishments" when asked how his win ranked against other pinnacles in his life. Firth said he had to catch a flight home to London on Mon-

day, and didn't know how late his revelry would go.

Looking fairly worn from the night's festivities, Steve Buscemi plopped into a booth across from Firth with his own best actor trophy for HBO's "Boardwalk Empire."

Co-star Kelly Macdonald flitted from Buscemi to Bonham Carter, smiling about the show's win for best television drama, surrounded by the likes of celebs such as Kyra Sedgwick, Kevin Bacon and Elijah Wood.

"I've been to these parties before, but I feel like I'm one of the cool kids now," said Macdonald.

Case in point, new "American Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez made a splashy exit from the party with her husband Marc Anthony. A pack of bodyguards flanked them as they wound their way up and down hallways and out the door.

Unlike last year, when rain soaked the red carpet, balmy weather made for a lovely, packed HBO bash at the hotel's Circa 55 restaurant, where many stars headed right after the awards ceremony. The party's green, brown and yellow Mod geometric theme extended to the carpet, pillows, table cloths and chairs. Sculptural golden pillars and burning candles on floating round islands decorated the patio's outdoor pool.

Sean "Diddy" Combs sat and chatted with "The Fighter" nominee Mark Wahlberg, feasting on steaming risotto, kale, grilled veggies, sea bass and beef with tomatoes. Ricky Gervais rested and laughed after his Globe hosting duties at a nearby table, sans jacket. Halle Berry's boyfriend Olivier Martinez rubbed the best actress nominee's shoulders as she finished eating. "Twilight" hunk Rob Pattinson navigated the crowd.

No-show won't deter Poe fans from annual ritual

BALTIMORE (AP)—Fans of American author Edgar Allan Poe are heading to Baltimore again this year to try for a glimpse of the shadowy figure known only as the "Poe toaster"—even though the mystery visitor was a no-show last year.

An anonymous caller had left three roses and a half-e m p t y bottle of c o g n a c on Poe's grave on the Jan. 19 anniversary of the writer's birth every year for some six decades, but the person failed to appear in 2010.



Poe

But that's not the end of the story. If anything, the no-show has deepened the mystery, attracting more curiosity to the ritual.

The curator of the Poe House and Museum says he's expecting a larger crowd than usual Wednesday morning as fans gather in hopes that the Poe toaster will return. Poe was born in 1809 and died Oct. 7, 1849.



A Jan. 19, 2008 file photo shows the original grave of Edgar Allan Poe, with a bottle of cognac and roses left by a mysterious visitor, in Baltimore.

In Loving Memory of †Lisa Marie Aldan Villagomez

June 24, 1976 – January 14, 2011

In Her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Joaquin Tenorio Villagomez
Brother: †Joseph Aldan
Daughter: †Yuriginalynn Michelle
Paternal Grandparents: †Jose Seman and +Antonia Tenorio Villagomez
Maternal Grandparents: †Jose Castro and +Rita Matagolai Aldan

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Mother: Remedio Aldan Villagomez
Children: Jackielynn V. Espinosa; Ciara Alyssa A. Lizama
Friend: Anisio Sokuna
Brothers, Sister and In-Laws:
Raymond A. and Janice A. Villagomez (Kaelani Kay & Jack Vincent)
Jeffrey A. Villagomez and Ana M Teregeyo (Ryan)
Carmen V. and Stanley L. Laniyo (Carley)
Francisco Cabrera and Vera Tudela (Deron, Deko & Dennica)

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 pm. at St Jude Church in Koblerville followed by Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to St Jude Church. Responso Service will be at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am followed by Interment Service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

**Remedio Aldan Villagomez, Children and Family
Anisio Sokuna and Children**

Palin explains 'blood libel' comment

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, defending herself against criticism following the Tucson, Ariz., shootings, said Monday that she used the term “blood libel” to describe comments made by those who falsely tried to link conservatives to the assassination attempt against Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Speaking out for the first time since she used the term in a video, Palin said on Fox’s Sean Hannity show that the term referred to those “falsely accused of having blood on their hands.”

Some Jewish groups strongly protested her use of the term, which historically was used to accuse Jews of using blood of Christians in religious rituals.

“I think the critics again were using anything that they could gather out of that statement,” she said. “You can spin up anything out of anybody’s statements that are released and use them against the person who is making the statement.”

Palin, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2012, said the criticism won’t stop her from speaking out and accusing Democrats of taking the country in the wrong direction.

“They can’t make us sit down and shut up,” she said.

Palin said her political action committee’s use of crosshairs to identify targeted congres-



This image taken from Facebook.com on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 shows the Facebook page of Sarah Palin. A nearly eight-minute video was posted on her page early Wednesday, accusing journalists and pundits of inciting hatred and violence in the wake of a deadly Arizona shooting that gravely wounded a U.S. congresswoman.

sional districts for Republican pickups was not original and has been used by Democrats. As she spoke, a Democratic map was shown on the screen with circular targets of districts Democrats wanted to win.

The former governor said the crosshairs graphic was taken down by the PAC’s hired

graphic artist after the criticism began. “I don’t think that was inappropriate,” she said.

The shooting on Jan. 8 killed six and wounded 13, including Giffords. Her district was among those in the Palin site’s crosshairs.

Palin insisted that she has “repeated over and over my

condemnation of violence.” She said she was frustrated that conservatives who responded to false accusations—blaming them for the shootings—have become part of the story.

Asked why she was singled out for criticism, Palin, speaking from her hometown of Wasilla, said, “I know that a

lot of those on the left hate my message and they will do all they can to stop me because they don’t like the message.”

Palin added, “I receive a lot of death threats. My children do.”

The former governor said she supported calls for civility in politics but added, “we should not use an event like that in Arizona to stifle debate.”

Asked what she thought of Obama’s speech at a memorial for the victims, Palin said, “I thought there were parts of it that really hit home that all of us can hold onto and live out.”

Palin received lower marks for her handling of the tragedy from more Americans than President Barack Obama did, a Washington Post-ABC News poll released Monday found.

Nearly 8 in 10 of those surveyed gave Obama high marks for his response, and 71 percent of Republicans approved of Obama’s leadership after the shootings, the Post reported. About 30 percent of those polled approved of Palin’s response; among Republicans, her positive marks rose to 56 percent.

More than half of those polled said the tone of the country’s political discourse didn’t contribute to the shootings.

The poll of 1,053 adults, conducted by telephone Jan. 13-16, had a margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Spy Dubai: next Bond novel has Gulf setting

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—British superspy James Bond is heading to Dubai on his next mission.

The author of the upcoming Bond novel, “Carte Blanche,” says the Gulf city-state will be the backdrop for 007’s new adventures.

Jeffery Deaver told reporters Monday he was attracted by Dubai’s “exotic” mix of gleaming towers and desert. But Deaver did not divulge any story lines in the novel, scheduled to be released in May.

Deaver, who has published more than two dozen novels, was commissioned to write the book by the estate of Bond creator Ian Fleming.

It’s the first time Dubai has been featured in a Bond plot. But the debonaire secret agent has company. The next “Mission Impossible” film, due out in December, has scenes filmed in Dubai.

Piers Morgan isn't afraid to stir it up with celebs

By MELISSA MAERZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—“Piers Makes Enemy of Madonna.” That’s the newspaper headline that’s pinned above Piers Morgan’s desk, as if it were an inspirational quote from the Dalai Lama.

“I’ve said that Madonna can only come on my show if she gets on bended knee in Times Square and makes a public apology to me for crimes against humanity,” explains Morgan, grinning.

Sitting in his office, which looks out over the Manhattan skyline, the silver-haired, sharply dressed Brit is here at CNN’s New York offices to discuss his new talk show “Piers Morgan Tonight,” which takes over Larry King’s old time slot on Monday. He will be the first British interviewer to host a prime-time talk show in the United States since David Frost (1969-72), and he’s already lined up an all-star list of guests, including Oprah Winfrey, George Clooney, Howard Stern, Kim and Courtney Kardashian, and Condo-leezza Rice.

But Morgan’s just as eager to talk about the first guest he’s banned from the show: the Queen of Pop. He first clashed with Madonna during the mid-’90s, when he worked as the editor of the U.K.’s Daily Mirror, but he’s reignited the feud just in time for his press tour,



Piers Morgan, host of CNN’s new interview show “Piers Morgan Tonight,” poses for a portrait backstage during the Turner Broadcasting Television Critics Association winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

telling reporters that Madonna is “boring” and “too vegan for TV,” calling her older and less talented than Lady Gaga.

“You have to be fairly shameless in this business,” admits Morgan, who’s best known in the United States as the mean judge on “America’s Got Talent.” “And you also have to be cheeky. That’s not a phrase you have in America, but it means having the (guts) to say something other people won’t.”

Having interviewed public figures for more than two decades in print and on television, Morgan knows the power of a salacious quote. British politi-

cian Nick Clegg once acknowledged to Morgan that he’d slept with “no more than 30” women. Helen Mirren revealed to him that she’d been date raped. On the British talk show “Piers Morgan’s Life Stores,” Morgan pressed his good friend Simon Cowell about the death of his father until the brutish “American Idol” judge cried on television—a coup that Morgan believes scored him the CNN gig. Now, Morgan will tell anyone who listens that he’s ready to “fill Larry King’s suspenders.”

Donald Trump, a good friend of Morgan’s and King’s, agrees. “Larry King was one of the great

interviewers, so you need a great interviewer to replace him, and that’s Piers,” says Trump, who crowned Morgan the winner of “Celebrity Apprentice” three years ago and will soon appear on “Piers Morgan Tonight.” “He’s going to be more caustic than Larry. He’ll be able to get things out of people that few are able to do.”

Indeed, after British journalist Celia Walden posed for a lingerie spread in GQ, Morgan pressured her into an interview—and, as he puts it, “that interview lasted five dinners and two breakfasts.”

She’s now his wife.

It’s no wonder that, after pre-recording her episode of “Piers Morgan Tonight,” Oprah told a crowd at a Television Critics Association panel in Los Angeles that it was “one of the toughest interviews I’ve had in 20 years.”

Morgan says he’s learned a lot about technique from Barbara Walters, whose book he still keeps in his office for reference. “The best way of assessing someone’s character is to get them emotional,” he says, citing one of Walters’ tricks. “Oprah went through the full range of emotion: anger, hurt, tears, laughter.”

He got Winfrey to talk about how she deals with depression and how many times she’d been in love. “Oprah said to me, ‘When I ask someone a question and they don’t really want to answer it, I let it go, but you just ask it three different ways.’ I’ll keep returning to the same question in an ever more devious and outrageous way until the person would rather answer the original question.”

Anderson Cooper, he isn’t. Morgan may be a little more tabloid-friendly than CNN viewers are used to. In an upcoming interview with Colin Firth, he asks “The King’s Speech” star what it’s like for Firth’s wife to watch his sex scenes with “Girl With a Pearl Earring” co-star Scarlett Johansson. He once delved so far into the private life of British journalist Jeremy Clarkson that Clarkson punched him in the

face—three times.

Back in September, when CNN announced that it had chosen Morgan to take over for King, some critics suggested that the network was championing entertainment over news as a ratings ploy: Last year, CNN lagged way behind Fox News, watched MSNBC trump its prime-time viewership for the first time, and according to a study by media analyst Brad Adgate, lost more viewers than any other cable channel.

Does he worry that continuing to judge “America’s Got Talent” while hosting this new talk show will hurt his credibility? “No, I think it’s funny,” he says, lightening up a little. “One day I’ll be judging a piano-playing pig, the next I’ll be interviewing Nelson Mandela.”

One day, when that piano-playing pig can fly, he’ll be interviewing Madonna. By the way, Madge’s response to all of Morgan’s badgering? According to a statement her rep Liz Rosenberg gave to Popeater.com, “Madonna doesn’t know who Piers Morgan is.”

Of course, if you want Americans to remember your name, getting Madonna to denounce it is a good way to do it. And if you want to lure one of the world’s most famous women onto your show, there’s no better way than to tell her you’re not interested.

Maybe Piers Morgan is cheekier than we think.

Kidman, Urban have 2nd child through surrogate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban have added a second daughter to their family, born through a surrogate mother.

The couple announced Monday the arrival of Faith Margaret Kidman Urban, born on Dec. 28 at a Nashville, Tenn., hospital.

Kidman and Urban released a statement saying they are “truly blessed” and thanked everyone for their support, “our gestation-

al carrier” in particular.

The couple also has a 2-year-old daughter, Sunday Rose. Kidman credited her first daughter’s unexpected appearance to swimming in the waters of a small Australian Outback town during the filming of “Australia.” She and six other women became pregnant after swimming in Kununurra.

No other details about Faith Margaret were available.

Nicole Kidman arrives with her husband Keith Urban for the Golden Globe Awards Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



‘Twilight’ star talks privacy, money in Vogue

NEW YORK (AP)—Kristen Stewart is living an atypical life for a 20-year-old.

Ever since she took on the role of Bella Swan in the “Twilight” films, she’s crossed over into youth-idol status where emotions run high and she has zero privacy.

The actress says in the February issue of Vogue magazine that she can’t go to a shopping mall and that it bothers her she can’t be outside often.

Stewart is working on the final two films in the saga and says her wish is for the fans to be happy with the outcome.

Now that “Twilight” has made her a star, Stewart tells the magazine, she’s trying to figure out what to do with the money she’s made from her work. Stewart says it would be “amazing” to help fund halfway houses for people who need their kind of support.

Aniston: The Rachel was ‘the ugliest haircut’

NEW YORK (AP)—There was a time in the mid 1990s when women bargained their hair salons with photos of Jennifer Aniston to copy her haircut.

The layered cut was given the name “The Rachel” for Aniston’s character on the “Friends”

television comedy series named Rachel Green. She wore the style on the show’s first and second season.

One person who was not a fan of “The Rachel,” however, was Aniston herself. Aniston describes it as “the ugliest haircut”

she’s ever seen in the February issue of Allure magazine. In fact, she can’t understand how the look caught on.

Aniston’s longtime hairstylist Chris McMillan came up with the cut. He still works with Aniston today.

Kitty Hiccups captures 2011 Miss’d America crown



ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The top cat at this year’s Miss’d America pageant is the leopard print-clad Kitty Hiccups.

Hiccups, also known as 32-year-old David Hyland, was crowned the 2011 Miss’d America on Sunday night at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

The irreverent—and usually hilarious—drag-queen pageant began in 1993, always the day after the Miss America Pageant.

The popular fundraiser returned bigger and better last year after a 5-year absence. The Miss’d America pageant takes place on the same runway once used by the “real” beauty queens, who have since moved on to Las Vegas.

The Press of Atlantic City reports that this year’s pageant featured eight contestants.

Miss Kitty Hiccups walks the runway after being named 2011 Miss’d America, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 in Atlantic City, N.J.

AP

Tales of bedroom antics are bad topic for conversation

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a fairly conservative young woman, and also somewhat shy. I have been dating a young man who comes from a much more casual culture than I do. This has its benefits -- he laughs often and deeply, and easily connects with people. But it also has its downside.



Dear Abby

“Mac” has a terrible habit of talking publicly about what we do in the bedroom. He means it in a teasing way, and he’s never insulting. He can’t understand why it upsets me, although he is always remorseful when he realizes I’m angry. He worries that I’m ashamed of him and what we do, but I’m not. I just don’t want it to be a topic of public discussion, especially with people from my church. I find it embarrassing to have my love life made public.

Mac is never mean-spirited, only vulgar, which to him is acceptable. I love him. He’s a strong, kind and generous man. But I do not feel respected. The truth is, he just doesn’t know how to treat me with respect. What can I do?

WOMAN OF CHARACTER

DEAR WOMAN OF CHARACTER: Mac is “always” remorseful? You should not have had to tell him more than once that his talking about your sex life made you uncomfortable. He appears to crave attention any way he can get it. His lack of sensitivity for your feelings is a red flag.

Mac may be funny, strong, kind and generous, but because he doesn’t understand boundaries, he isn’t likely to change. What you must do is ask yourself if this is the way you want the rest of your life to be, because if you continue this relationship, this will be your reality—and nothing will be kept private.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: “Clyde” and I dated as teenagers. After we separated, he married someone else. We met up again and had an affair, which resulted in two children. I ended it because it was going nowhere and raised the children alone.

Clyde and I have now come full circle. After separating from his wife, he sought me out. I have loved only him my entire life. We have been living together for several years now, and I have an engagement ring with no hope of marriage. He keeps telling me his wife is holding up the divorce.

Abby, how long can one person hold up a divorce? I have waited 25 years for this man, and I don’t know if I will wait forever.

TIRED OF WAITING IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR TIRED OF WAITING: Clyde may not have been completely honest with you. I ran your letter by a family law specialist who informed me that here in the U.S.A. no one can be forced to stay married against his or her will. A divorce is a court proceeding. A spouse can stall signing an agreement—the division of property would be an example—but not a court process.

As for your being unwilling to wait for Clyde “forever”—you have already done that. Twenty-five years of waiting for a man who’s unavailable is forever.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work for a dentist. There are two other staff members besides me.

The dentist occasionally receives gifts (goodie baskets, flowers, baked goods, etc.) from specialists thanking him for referring patients to them. These gifts usually have cards that say “To Doctor and Staff,” but he never shares any of it with us; he takes it all home. Should I approach him about this?

NO PERKS IN INDIANA

DEAR NO PERKS: I don’t think so. While your feelings are understandable, you would have nothing to gain but poundage. And besides, it’s almost impossible to shame the shameless.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Casting change announced for Starz’ ‘Spartacus’

NEW YORK (AP)—Starz network says Australian actor Liam McIntyre will play the title role in the second season of “Spartacus: Blood and Sand.” The network announced Monday that McIntyre will take over the role of the legendary Thracian slave from Andy Whitfield, who starred the first season. Illness forced Whitfield to leave the series. McIntyre has appeared on Australian TV and was seen in HBO’s miniseries “The Pacific.” Production is scheduled to resume in New Zealand this spring. A six-part prequel that sets the stage for Spartacus’ arrival premieres Friday on Starz.

Golden Globes broadcast seen by 17 million viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen Co. says Sunday’s Golden Globes ceremony was seen by almost 17 million TV viewers. It beat all network competition in

its time period, slightly exceeding last year’s audience for the film and TV awards show. According to time zone-adjusted Nielsen “fast national” figures released Monday, it was NBC’s most-watched prime-time entertainment telecast in the 18-to-49 demographic since last year’s Golden Globes. Carried by NBC from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern time, the program aired live in every time zone for the second year in a row. British comedian-actor Ricky Gervais returned as host, irreverently lampooning many of the nominees, presenters and even the sponsoring Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Nobel poet Szyborska gets Poland’s highest honor

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Nobel literature laureate Wislawa Szyborska has been awarded Poland’s highest honor in recognition of her contribution to her country’s culture. President Bronislaw Komorowski honored Szyborska, 87, with the

Order of the White Eagle during a ceremony Monday at the Wawel Castle in the southern city of Krakow, where she lives. The citation honors the 1996 Nobel laureate for her “illustrious contributions to the national culture and outstanding literary work.” Szyborska’s seemingly simple verses deal with the profound or tragic in life through small details of daily existence.

Judge: Etta James’ husband may use \$60K for care

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California judge has ruled that Etta James’ husband may use \$60,000 of the ailing R&B singer’s savings to pay for her medical care. Riverside County Superior Court Judge Thomas Cahraman said at a hearing Friday that the money should last until Feb. 24, when Artis Mills is expected back in court to continue seeking control of more than \$1 million of James’ money. The Riverside Press-Enterprise says Mills is challenging the le-

gitimacy of a claim by James’ son, Donto James, that his mother gave him power of attorney in 2008. Court documents show the 72-year-old singer of “At Last” and other standards lives in the Woodcrest area of Riverside County, has been diagnosed with dementia and is undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Sugarland headlines new ACM Fan Jam in Las Vegas

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The party that The Academy of Country Music throws for its annual awards show in Las Vegas is getting bigger. Sugarland will headline the new ACM Fan Jam, a live concert that will run simultaneously with the awards show on April 3 on CBS. There will be three live remotes from the event at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino—one during each hour of the live broadcast. The awards show will be held at the MGM Grand with Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton hosting. Nominations will be announced Feb. 1.

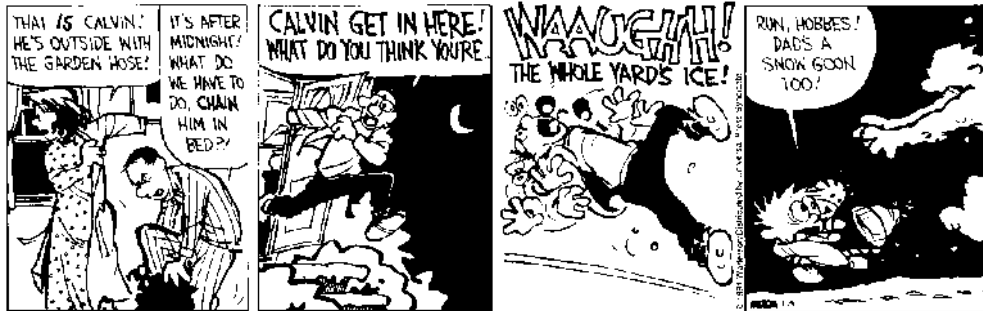
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

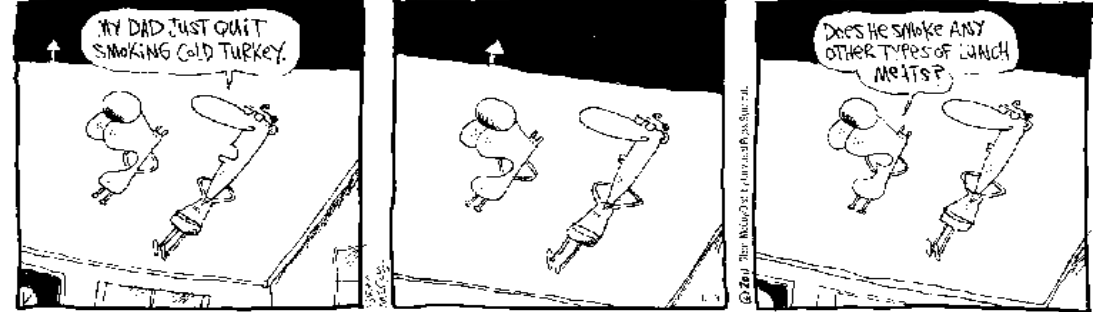
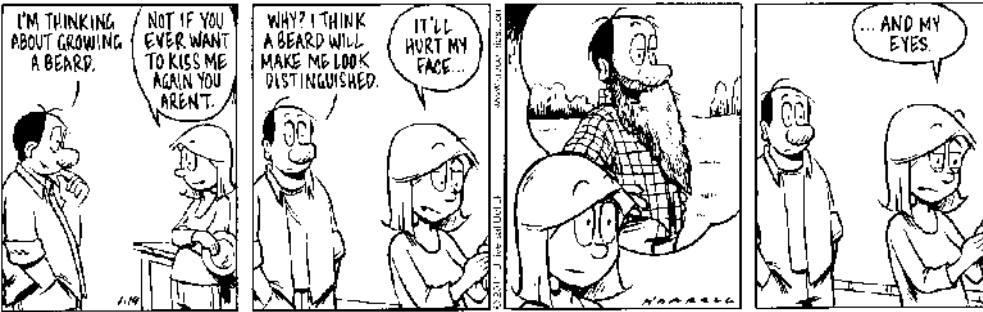


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Triangular sail
4 PBS science show
8 Item on stage
12 Exist
13 News-paper page
14 Volcanic flow
15 Sheepish remark?
16 1980 Robbie Dupree hit
18 — Valley (1960 Olympics site)
20 Periodical for short
21 Part of SMU (Abbr.)
24 Former larvae
28 2000 Tom Hanks movie
32 Other-wise
33 Shade
34 Forbidden

DOWN

36 Lubricate
37 List-ending abbr.
39 Formally relinquish
41 Page number
43 Even dance
44 Loud proclamation
50 To start pre-maturely
55 Twosome picture
57 Portrayal
58 Work unit
59 Wild and crazy
60 Couldn't keep a secret

61 Lawyers' org.
22 "— the night before ..."
23 Custom maker
25 Furrow
26 Largest of the seven
27 Slithery
28 Kitchen
29 Car
30 Calk
31 Boo's mentor
35 Like a Cyclops
38 Lengthy recitation
40 Toss in
42 Erstwhile acorn
45 Section
47 Concept
48 "— Your Enthusiasm"
49 Frat party outfit
50 Job, jocularly
51 HDTV brand
52 A billion years
53 Court
54 Every last bit

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	L	E	A	E	C	H	O	B	O	B
H	E	M	S	N	O	E	L	C	D	E
D	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D	A	I
U	R	B	A	N	C	A	S	T	L	O
S	O	N	H	O	E	D	O	W	N	S
F	T	A	D	I	A	R	Y	A	A	H
D	E	R	R	I	E	R	E	O	L	I
H	O	R	D	F	M	A	I	L	E	
A	B	O	S	N	O	W	O	A	R	S
N	E	O	T	U	N	A	N	C	E	
G	E	Y	M	S	T	A	Y	S	I	A

Yesterday's answer 1-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drea de Matteo, 39; Shawn Wayans, 42; Katie Sagal, 57; Dolly Parton, 65

Happy Birthday: Base your decisions on facts, not hearsay. Your emotions will be difficult to control and a great deal of thought must go into planning your actions, especially during the first half of the year. Work diligently toward your goals and you can prosper and gain ground personally and professionally during the second half of the year. Your numbers are 2, 7, 19, 21, 34, 37, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take chances if they might create a negative influence on your personal or professional status. If you are too vocal, you will limit the possibilities. Keen perception and diplomacy will be required. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talks will lead to decisions that will allow you to move ahead. Do not let anyone upset your plans. Change is your friend, not the enemy, so embrace what comes your way and make it work for you. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on your future and on stretching your money. If whatever you are spending your money on is not going to help you earn more, don't do it. Prudence will make you feel better, spending on frivolous items will not. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you feel you cannot accomplish something on your own, get some help. A partnership can make all the difference. Compromise may be required but will be worth your while. Now is a

good time to implement the changes you've been talking about. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't need to have a meltdown to get others to listen. Put your plan together and present it with dignity and diplomacy. Anger will only cause you to overlook something or someone important to your future. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The effort you put into your home will pay off. Socializing more will bring you in contact with someone who can help you make positive changes to your future. Be a participant instead of a spectator. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There will be plenty of turmoil going on around you and it's important to be the friendly observer who can bring peace and order to the chaos. Focus on your own creative endeavors while you oversee what everyone around you is doing. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get back to basics. Once you get rid of any unnecessary items and chores, you will have more time to spend on what really can make a difference in your life. It's your life, so take control and do what's best for you. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Go at your own pace financially, emotionally and physically if you want to get to the finish line. Love is in the stars but you have to be honest about whether or not you are able to give what's required to make it work. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got the right attitude and you can make a difference. Try to be upfront about what you expect from others and what you are willing to give back. An unusual change will come as a surprise. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Slow down. Acting in haste will cause more harm than good. It's better to work as a team player and be included. Make the right choice and love will flourish; making the wrong one will alienate you from those you care about most. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may think you have all the answers but when faced with pressure or even a little forceful action, you will be second-guessing some of the decisions you've made in the past. Concentrate more on personal changes and with whom you can connect with socially. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You follow your heart and your dreams. You are steadfast, strong, persistent and fair.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6	8	2					
		6						5		
	8	1						9	6	
5										4
9										5
	2	4	9		5	3	8			
			1	3						
		5				7				
		7	4	5	8	6				

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	2	6	1	7	8	9	5
1	6	7	5	9	8	3	4	2
8	5	9	3	2	4	6	1	7
3	7	1	8	4	9	2	5	6
6	2	4	1	3	5	9	7	8
5	9	8	2	7	6	1	3	4
2	1	5	4	6	3	7	8	9
7	8	3	9	5	2	4	6	1
9	4	6	7	8	1	5	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RUM-BASED DRINKS

Solution: 8 letters

B D C B O M B E R E N R U T V
E A L A E A S E D A R G R O G
V U H R I C D M A C U A O T A
E S I A E P I A Q C G D I I I
R E R B M L I P L U O P U J T
A F R A F A O R S O U K I O I
G T Z U B A M O I N C A E M H
E I R E T U C A C N T K O U A
S U C O E X M H M I H C R I T
R R P R P R I B A A I A A M U
E F E I E I B M O Z M L N E N
K R N T N A C Y R R E B G R O
A K S I I A M A L I B U E P C
E U S T O H S Y L I M E Y R O
B A N A N A W L I A T K G O C

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Amber, Bahama Mama, Barana, Bars, Beach, Beakers, Berry, Beverages, Black, Blue, Bomber, Breeze, Bump, Buster, Caperintha, Cocktail, Coconut, Coke, Colada, Cooler, Creamy, Fruit, Grades, Grog, Jimmy, Yacua, Mai Tai, Malibu, Mixtura, Mojito, Orange, Pina, Pink, Premium, Shots, Spice, Sugar, Tahiti, Ti Punch, Tropical, Turner, Voodoo, White, Zombie

Yesterday's Answer: Strength

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5958! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-009 Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$36,000 to \$60,000 per year, Un-graded, Un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)
Positions: **Two.**
Contract: **Two-year.**

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Three years experience directly related to electrical power distribution systems. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. Knowledge of: REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Communication and problem-solving Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-010 Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$75,000 to \$90,000 per year, un-graded, un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)
Positions: **Two.**
Contract: **Two-year.**

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Four years of progressively responsible engineering experience directly related to power distribution systems. Must be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. Knowledge of: REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Communication and problem-solving; Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Clippers beat Pacers; Griffin scores 47



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin had a career-high 47 points and 14 rebounds for his 27th consecutive double-double as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied to beat the Indiana Pacers 114-107 on Monday.

Danny Granger scored 32 points, making 10 of 11 free throws, and former UCLA star Darren Collison added 30 points and eight assists for the Pacers.

Eric Gordon added 23 points and Baron Davis had 14 points and 12 assists for the Clippers, who were coming off a win over the two-time defending NBA champion Lakers a day earlier and have won 10 of their last 14.

Celtics 109, Magic 106

At Boston, Kevin Garnett returned after missing nine games with an injured leg and came up with a steal in the final seconds to help Boston beat Orlando.

Garnett scored 19 with eight rebounds in his first game since he strained his right calf on Dec. 29. Rajon Rondo had 10 points and 13 assists.

Dwight Howard scored 33 points with 13 rebounds and Ryan Anderson scored 16 points, including four 3-pointers, for the Magic.

Hawks 100, Kings 98

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored a season-high 36 points, including two free throws with 0.6 seconds remaining to help Atlanta recover after trailing most of the game.

Johnson drove past three defenders for a layup with 23 seconds remaining to give Atlanta a 98-96 lead. Carl Landry answered with a tying basket for Sacramento with 11.7 seconds remaining.

Al Horford added 23 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks for Atlanta.

DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 20 points.

Suns 129, Knicks 121

At New York, Vince Carter scored 29 points, including the 20,000th of his career, as Phoenix matched a season high with its third straight victory.

Grant Hill added 25 points for the Suns, who overcame a season-high 41 points from former Phoenix All-Star Amare Stoudemire and handed the Knicks their third loss in a row. Steve Nash finished with 15 points and 11 assists.

Wilson Chandler scored 23 points for the Knicks. Raymond Felton had 13 assists.

Pistons 103, Mavericks 89

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 20 points to help Detroit send Dallas to its sixth consecutive loss.

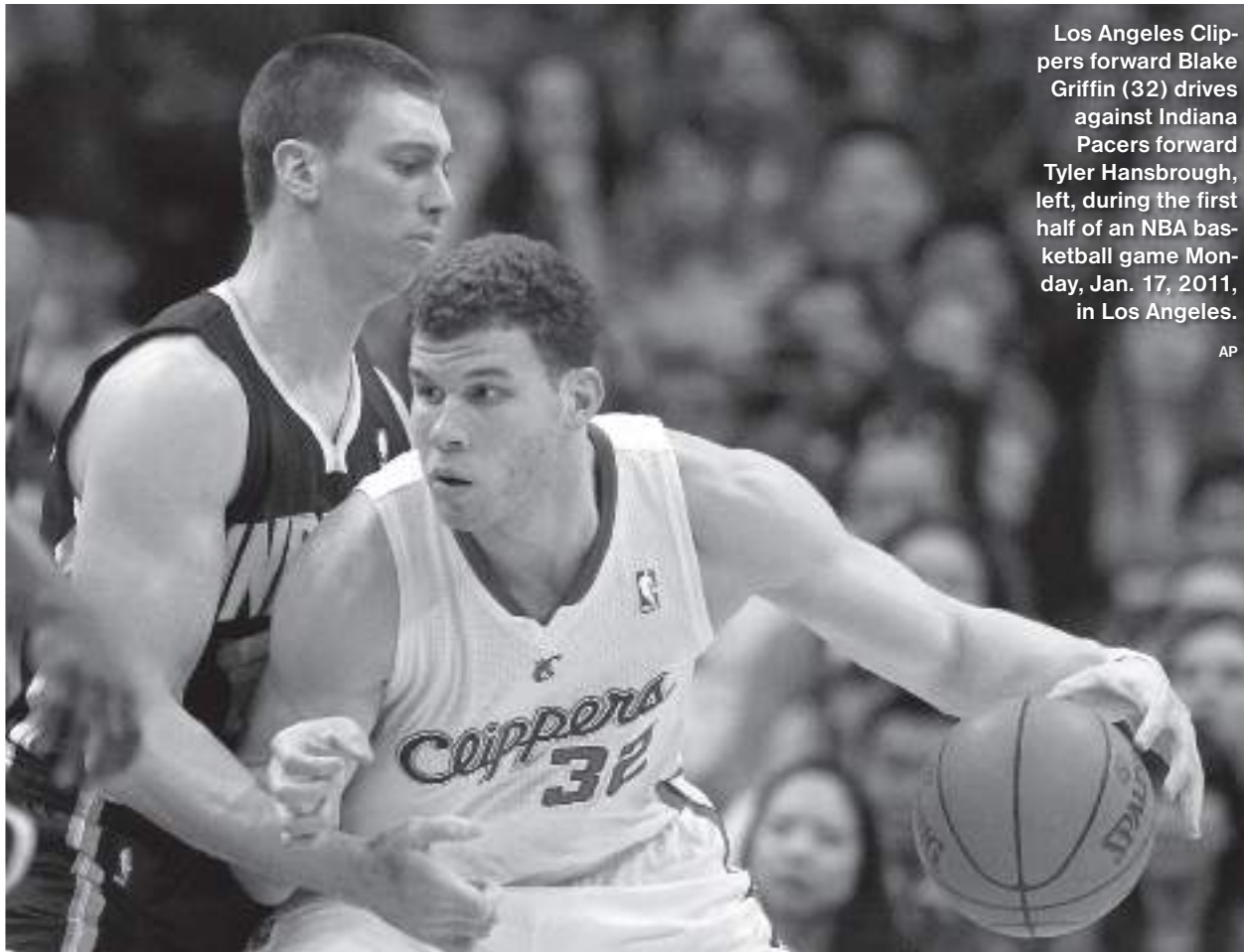
Tayshaun Prince added 19 points and rookie Greg Monroe had 16 points and nine rebounds for Detroit, which has won three straight for the first time all season.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 32 points for Dallas in his second game back from a sprained right knee. Jason Terry added 18 points, but no other Maverick was in double figures.

Hornets 85, Raptors 81

At New Orleans, David West had 23 points and 10 rebounds to help New Orleans win its fifth straight.

Emeka Okafor had 17 points and a



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (32) drives against Indiana Pacers forward Tyler Hansbrough, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 17, 2011, in Los Angeles.

AP

season-high 16 rebounds, tying a Hornets franchise record with 12 offensive rebounds. Jarrett Jack added 17 points and Chris Paul had 11 assists.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points for Toronto and Johnson added 17.

Bulls 96, Grizzlies 84

At Memphis, Tennessee, Derrick Rose returned to Memphis with his first career

triple-double, and Luol Deng scored 28 points to lead Chicago past Memphis.

Rose, coming back to the city where he starred at the University of Memphis, scored 22 points, handed out 12 assists and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Kyle Korver scored 22 points for Chicago with 6-of-10 shooting from three-point range.

Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies

with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Rockets 93, Bucks 84

At Houston, Kevin Martin scored 36 points and Houston recovered from its lowest first-half point total of the season.

Luis Scola had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and reserve Jordan Hill added 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who snapped a four-game

Raiders promote Hue Jackson to head coach



ALAMEDA, Calif.

(AP)—The Oakland Raiders promoted offensive coordinator Hue Jackson to head coach on Monday after he helped the team more than double its scoring output in his first year with the franchise.

Jackson will be formally introduced at a news conference Tuesday—two weeks after the Raiders announced they were not picking up an option to keep coach Tom Cable.

“The fire in Hue will set a flame that will burn for a long time in the hearts and minds of the Raider football team and the Raider Nation,” owner Al Davis said in a statement.

Jackson was widely considered the leading contender to get the job as soon as the Raiders announced Cable’s departure. This is Jackson’s first head coaching job at any level.

Jackson was hired a year ago to take over the play-calling duties from Cable and oversaw a transformation on offense. Oakland scored more than twice as many points in 2010 as it did in ‘09—and the Raiders won eight games and avoid an eighth straight losing season.

“I’m excited about Hue getting the head coaching job,” Raiders tight end Zach Miller said in a phone interview. “I really like the direction our offense is going and how much we improved. This was the best offensive year we’ve had since I’ve been a Raider. I’m excited to have the continuity.”

Jackson was popular with players

on both sides of the ball in Oakland, with the defenders enjoying the competitive nature he brought to practice each day. Linebacker Quentin Groves wrote on his Twitter feed, “Congrats to Hue Jackson ... This is gonna be a great ride!!!”

Led by quarterback Jason Campbell, a breakout season from running back Darren McFadden and big plays from rookie receiver Jacoby Ford, the Raiders finished sixth in the league in scoring with 410 points.

That was the sixth-most points in franchise history and a huge improvement from 2009, when former first overall pick JaMarcus Russell spent most of the time at quarterback.

“That’s what I came here for,” Jackson said late in the season. “It would be different if there wasn’t and then I’d be really upset but that’s why I’m here. That’s why I came to the Raiders, was to improve, but we didn’t improve fast enough. ... We expect to be challenging for the playoffs, challenging for our division year in and year out and we’re not getting that done, so to me, that’s a disappointment. There’s either first place or there’s last place and there’s no in between.”

That was a far different tone than the one expressed by Cable, who notably pronounced “you can’t call us losers anymore,” after the Raiders capped an 8-8 season by beating AFC West champion Kansas City in the season finale.

The Raiders won all six division games, but only two of their other 10 games. They became the first team

since the 1970 merger to have a perfect record in the division and not make the postseason.

Jackson will try to get the Raiders back to the playoffs for the first time since winning the 2002 AFC championship. Davis has let go of five coaches since then.

The latest was Cable, who had wide support from his players, who credited him with helping make the team a contender in the AFC West this season after a run of seven straight years of at least 11 losses.

But Cable’s relationship with Davis was not as good and the owner decided not to exercise a two-year, \$5 million option to keep him as head coach. Cable filed a grievance against the Raiders to recover \$120,000 in fines that Davis withheld from Cable’s paychecks in his last season. The two did not always see eye to eye on who should start at quarterback and other issues.

Jackson had a strong relationship with Campbell, the quarterback Davis acquired last offseason to lead the franchise. Campbell spoke glowingly of his relationship with Jackson. Despite being benched twice, Campbell had a solid debut season in Oakland, completing 59 percent of his passes with 13 touchdowns, eight interceptions and a passer rating of 84.5

Now he gets rare the opportunity to play in the same offense for a second straight season. He had four different offenses in four years at Auburn, then four more in six years in the NFL with Washington and Oakland.

home losing streak.

Corey Maggette scored a season-high 25 points for the Bucks, who’ve lost 11 straight games in Houston and remain the only team without a victory at the Toyota Center.

76ers 96, Bobcats 92

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala hit the go-ahead jumper with 37.6 seconds left in overtime, and Thaddeus Young followed with a game-saving steal for Philadelphia.

Iguodala had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Elton Brand added 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Boris Diaw had a triple-double for the Bobcats with 25 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds.

Lou Williams, who led the Sixers with 23 points, sent the game into overtime after he hit a 3 with 4.7 seconds left to make it 86-86.

Wizards 108, Wizards 101

At Washington, John Wall had 19 points and a career-high 15 assists to lead Washington to its fourth straight home victory and first two-game winning streak of the season.

Nick Young scored 25 points, and Andray Blatche had 21 points and 11 rebounds.

Deron Williams had 28 points and 11 assists for Utah in his first matchup with Wall. Al Jefferson had 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Warriors 109, Nets 100

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis had 26 points and nine assists to help Golden State beat New Jersey for the sixth straight time.

David Lee added 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors, who have won two of their first three games in a key stretch to the season that features 13 of 14 games at home.

Brook Lopez scored 20 points and Devin Harris added 19 for New Jersey.

Trail Blazers 113, Timberwolves 102

At Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge scored a career-high 37 points and the Portland Trail Blazers won for the 15th consecutive time over Minnesota, beating the Timberwolves.

Aldridge, who scored 36 points Minnesota on Dec. 17, hit 15 of 24 shots in leading the Trail Blazers to their second consecutive win. He also grabbed 12 rebounds and is averaging 34 points and 11 rebounds in three games against Minnesota this season.

Darko Milicic and Kevin Love each scored 22 points to lead Minnesota, which has lost seven of eight games.

Lakers 101, Thunder 94

At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant scored 21 points apiece, and the Lakers held off the Thunder for their eighth win in nine games.

Although Bryant missed three free throws in the final minute, the Lakers hung on for their 11th straight win over Oklahoma City at Staples Center, including three wins during last season’s highly competitive first-round playoff series.

Westbrook had 32 points and 12 assists, and he led a late run aided by those three straight misses by Bryant. But Westbrook missed two free throws of his own with 21.4 seconds left before airballing a 3-point attempt.

Nadal, Murray advance quickly to 2nd round



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal's quest to complete his "Rafa Slam" at the Australian Open started with a first-round victory that lasted only 11 games and certainly helped him conserve plenty of energy.

The No. 1-ranked Nadal went straight to the practice courts and worked on his serve, later saying it needs work to improve his chances of winning the Australian title.

The 24-year-old Spaniard led 6-0, 5-0 when Marcos Daniel retired with a left knee injury on Tuesday.

Andy Murray, the 2010 finalist, advanced when Karol Beck retired with a shoulder injury in the third set of their first-round match.

The fifth-seeded Murray, who was leading 6-3, 6-1, 4-2 when Beck quit the match, was the only man to beat Nadal in a Grand Slam tournament last year.

Nadal could sympathize with Daniel, recalling he'd had to retire from the last Australian Open with an injured knee in the quarterfinals against Murray. But Nadal recovered from that setback and won the next three majors and is now aiming to be the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slam trophies at the same time.

"It's a terrible feeling, for sure. I wish him all the best for a fast recovery," Nadal said after the match. "Last year was a really difficult time when I played this tournament. I came back here playing well ... but to go out like that was hard mentally.

"Finally, I had a very good season in 2010."

Good season is the understatement of the tournament. Nadal won the French Open, then Wimbledon and finally claimed his first U.S. Open title. With Tuesday's victory, he's now on a roll of 22 consecutive match wins in Grand Slam tournaments.

"I came back after a difficult situation. Winning Roland Garros was very important, it allowed me to play the rest of the season with a little bit more calm."

Still, he's not thinking about victory celebrations at Melbourne Park just yet.

"I never think about winning the four Grand Slams in a row because that's very far right now," he said.

Daniel had a medical time out at the end of the first set and had his left knee heavily strapped. He said he'd injured his knee earlier in the week in practice, but thought it would get him through the match.

He said playing Nadal on center court made it more difficult.

"That's the hardest part. In the beginning I was feeling embarrassed a little bit," he said. "I tried to play the game, it didn't work. It looks like I'm 75 years old."

When the Brazilian had a break point in the second game of the second set, he raised both arms and received a rousing cheer from the crowd. When Nadal had a rare miss with a wild overhead that sailed over the baseline to give the Brazilian a second breakpoint chance, the crowd went wild again.

Nadal finally held after the game went to deuce five times and it progressively seemed only a matter of time before Daniel would retire as he limped around.

"Save energy or not, I think the way that the match came doesn't make big difference," Nadal said. "Is difficult ... to say I played really well, I played bad. I think I played right."



Spain's Rafael Nadal makes a backhand return to Brazil's Marcos Daniel during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011. AP

Ahead of swap day, Upton and Rays settle



NEW YORK

(AP)—A year after losing to the Tampa Bay Rays in salary arbitration, B.J. Upton decided to settle.

The 27-year-old center fielder was awarded the team's \$3 million offer last winter by a three-person panel rather than his \$3.3 million request. On Monday, Upton and the Rays agreed to a one-year contract worth \$4,825,000.

Since 119 players filed for arbitration Friday, more than a dozen have settled their cases. By the time teams and players swap proposed arbitration figures Tuesday afternoon, only about 50 players are likely to remain without agreements, and most of those will settle before hearings are held next month.

Milwaukee Brewers slugger Prince Fielder, major league home run champion Jose Bautista of Toronto and Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon were among those set to exchange figures.

NL MVP Joey Votto finalized his \$38 million, three-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds, a deal that had been agreed to over the weekend pending a physical.

Among those in arbitration who finalized agreements Monday were Colorado pitcher Matt Lindstrom (\$6.6 million for two years), Washington left-hander John Lannan (\$2.75 million), Cleveland shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera (\$2,025,000); Kansas City right-hander Robinson Tejeda (\$1.55 million). Florida struck

deals with right-handers Leo Nunez (\$3.65 million) and Edward Mujica (\$800,000, and Toronto settled with right-handers Shawn Camp (\$2.25 million), Casey Janssen (\$1,095,000) and Jesse Litsch (\$830,000).

Among unannounced deals were one-year contracts for Chicago White Sox right-hander Tony Pena (\$1.6 million), Baltimore right-hander Jim Johnson (\$975,000) and Cincinnati left-hander Bill Bray (\$645,000).

Agreements for six players were announced last weekend: Chicago Cubs catcher Geovany Soto (\$3 million). Blue Jays right-hander Carlos Villanueva (\$1,415,000), St. Louis right-hander Kyle McClellan (\$1,375,000), Oakland right-hander Brad Ziegler (\$1.25 million), Philadelphia outfielder Ben Francisco (\$1,175,000) and Minnesota infielder Alexi Castilla (\$865,000).

Among free agents, right-hander Jon Rauch agreed to a one-year contract with the Blue Jays worth \$3.75 million, and big-spending Colorado kept former AL MVP Jason Giambi with a minor league contract. The New York Mets gave infielder Willie Harris a minor league deal.

The Mets also reached an agreement with right-hander Chris Young, pending a physical, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal had not yet been announced.

Also, the Cubs agreed to trade pitcher Tom Gorzelanny to the Na-

tionalists for prospects, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Monday because Gorzelanny needed to pass a physical, which is scheduled for Tuesday.

Votto receives a huge raise from the \$525,000 he made last season, when he led the Reds to their first playoff appearance in 15 years. He will be eligible for free agency after the 2013 season.

"I think it gives me the opportunity to avoid arbitration and to also just concentrate on playing in the next three years," Votto said during a conference call. "It has absolutely nothing to do with getting to free agency or that, although a lot of people would interpret it that way. I can't imagine playing for another team right now."

Votto was an All-Star for the first time last season, finishing second in the league with a .324 batting average and third with 37 homers and 113 RBIs.

Colorado's deal with Lindstrom follows megacontracts that committed \$157.75 million over the next decade to shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and \$80 million over seven seasons to outfielder Carlos Gonzalez, plus a \$21.5 million, two-year deal for left-hander Jorge De La Rosa.

"We all know that whatever you do in the winter doesn't mean a thing if you don't play well in the spring, summer and fall," general manager Dan O'Dowd said. "We've got a long ways to go to improve our style of play."

Australian wild-card entry Bernard Tomic advanced to the second round with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (5) win over Jeremy Chardy of France. He is a potential third-round opponent for Nadal.

Hoping a third time will be luckier, Vera Zvonareva began her bid to reach a third consecutive Grand Slam final with a commanding 6-2, 6-1 win over Sybille Bammer in the opening match Tuesday on Rod Laver Arena.

Zvonareva, who lost to Serena Williams in the Wimbledon final and to Kim Clijsters in the U.S. Open final last year, dominated the first set against the 30-year-old Bammer and tightened her grip on the match in the second. She conceded only four points in the first four games of the second set and didn't allow the Austrian to hold until the sixth game.

Also advancing were French Open finalist Sam Stosur, the fifth-seeded Australian beating American wild-card entry Lauren Davis 6-1, 6-1; No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska, who took six of the last seven games after a medical timeout in the third set to hold off Japanese veteran Kimiko Date Krumm 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; No. 7 Jelena Jankovic; No. 25 Petra Kvitova and China's Peng Shuai.

On the men's side, No. 15 Marin Cilic of Croatia beat American qualifier Donald Young 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 to advance along with No. 10 Mikhail Youzhny, No. 11 Jurgen Melzer, No. 31 Feliciano Lopez and No. 32 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

Nadal's easy run to the second round came the day after Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic got their campaigns started with straight-sets wins.

Defending champion Federer dismantled Lukas Lacko 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 and Djokovic soundly beat Marcus Granollers 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Matutino named Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Adony Matutino claimed the 2010 Fil-Taga Golfers Association's Golfer of the Year Award after ruling the club's yearend tournament over the weekend.

Matutino was named Golfer of the Year after carding a two-day total of net 142. He stole the award from first round leader Dandito Breboneria after posting a net 69 at the Marianas Country Club last Sunday.

Matutino tallied a gross 85 at MCC and ended up with the best net score of the week (69) after deducting his 16 handicap at the Marpi course. In the first round last Saturday, Matutino registered an 18 handicap at Coral Ocean Point for a gross 91 and net 73. He was one stroke behind Breboneria.

Breboneria moved closer to winning the 2010 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year award after posting a net 72 in the first round. The 25-handicapper shot a gross 97 for a one-shot lead over Matutino. However, Breboneria, who recorded a 22 handicap at MCC, lost the lead and the

2010 title when he only scored a gross 91 in the second and final round at the Marpi course for a total of 143.

Richard Meimban completed the Top 3 with a two-day net total of 145. Meimban had an impressive game at MCC, carding a net 71 and tying the second best score of the day. He earned a 20 handicap at the Marpi course for a gross 91. In the first round at COP, the 22-handicapper Meimbain logged a gross 98 and net 76.

Larry Pascual, who finished fifth in the first round, moved up after the second round and placed fourth. Pascual had a net 77 at COP and then played better at MCC for a two-day net total of 150.

Only nine Fil-Taga members played in the second and final round of the season-ending tournament, two less from the 11 golfers that competed in the first round at COP.

Vic Romana joined both round and finished fifth with his net total of 156. Rene Batallones also played two rounds and placed sixth with his 157. Ronnie Santos had a two-day total of 159 and Jacinto Ramones collected 164.

Jason Gatdula and Joseph



Fernandez only played in the first round and tallied nets of 83 and 87, respectively. Ernie Lopez also missed the second

round and was left with a first round score of net 81. Joe Miranda only joined the second round and recorded a net 75.

MOBIL

From Page 28

Marvin Rabauliman moved Mobil within two and then Tamayo went for a reverse undergoal stab off his own miss in a fastbreak play to tie the game, 88-all, with less than 50 seconds to go in the game.

Mobil then earned a break in the ensuing play when IP&E was called touching the leather last on a loose ball to the sideline. When Mobil regained possession, Tamayo pulled up for a short jumper from the right key to give his team the lead, 90-88, 16.4 ticks left in the match.

Despite having a lot of time left to orchestrate a play, Esdrelon opted for a quick baseline jumper and missed. Mobil then grabbed the rebound and avoided IP&E defenders trying to give up fouls to seal the win.

The IP&E-Mobil game finished late not only due to overtime, but also because of problems in the timers. The

clocked ran even on deadballs and table officials had to reset it after each play.

IP&E and Mobil slugged it out from start to finish with the former having a good chance to win the match in regulation after leading by five in the last minute of the fourth quarter, behind Ivan Devero and Junar Guiab's baskets.

However, Rabauliman, Estolas, and De Guzman saved the day for Mobil in the fourth. These three players continued to play in overtime, while De Vero and Guiab sat out and watched Mobil steal the game.

NMC Proa 62, IT&E Fundamentalists 46

In the second game, NMC Proa dominated IT&E Fundamentalists, 62-46.

NMC Proa, which is bannered by former CNMI Nationals players, schooled IT&E Fundamentalists, pulling away in the third quarter, 50-30.

Dan Barcinas led NMC's breakaway, drilling nine of his 17 points in the third period.

IT&E Fundamentalists started slow, scoring only eight in the first quarter and failed to pick up their scoring in the next three quarters.

Ol'Aces 84, Rollers 65

Last season's finalists Ol'Aces also cruised to an easy win, thumping Rollers, 84-65.

A rousing start gave the Ol'Aces a 22-7 lead and they never looked back from thereon.

Jose Tumaquip and new recruit Freddie Pelisamen combined for 12 points in the opening period to help the Ol'Aces dictate the tempo of the game early.

Pelisamen finished with a team-high 15 points, while Tumaquip and Peter Camacho chipped in 14 each.

In Monday's first game, Hoopholics won its debut when it beat defending champion Prospects, 88-71.

Second Game

NMC Proa 62 – Barcinas 17, Lizama 12, Mendiola 7, Iguel 6, Valdez 4, Aguon 4, Johnson 3,

Palacios 3, Ruluked 3.

IT&E Fundamentalists 46 – Petersburg 13, Keizer 12, Fox 9, Cooke 4, Lee 4, Schuler 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-8, 30-18, 58-30, 62-46.

Third Game

Ol'Aces 84 – Pelisamen 15, Camacho 14, Tumaquip 14, Ogumoro 11, Kenty 8, Z. Diaz 6, Renguul 6, Iginoef 5, E. Diaz 3, Lisua 2.

Rollers 65 – Matagolai 19, Santos 14, Hambros 11, Teregeyo 7, Reyes 6, Laniyo 4, Ulloa 2, Metran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-7, 39-24, 58-40, 84-65.

Fourth Game

Mobil 90 – Estolas 23, Muleta 18, Rabauliman 16, De Guzman 12, Gapor 7, Basila 6, Tamayo 4, Artates 2.

IP&E Konflikt 88 – Bernardo 20, Esdrelon 18, Santos 11, Guiab 8, Devero 6, Olaitiman 5, Capalad 4, Berline 4, Talania 2, De Dios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 33-40, 57-55, 81-81, 90-88.

nists meet in the scheduled co-main bout of Friday's PXC 22.

"The message to my opponent would be good luck and be ready to put on a good fight," Martinez said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune*.

He also expressed that although he cannot predict how the fight will turn out, he vowed to find a way to win.

"I want to finish my opponent for sure and I don't want it to end up in the judges' hands," added Martinez

Martinez underwent surgery to treat a broken hand he suffered in his last fight against Japan's Kazuhisa Tazawa and is fully recovered.

As of last Thursday, he was training on his overall game stateside in Enumclaw, Washington's Combat Sport & Fitness facility. He said training is going extremely well and feels like he is in the best shape of his life physically and technically.

Martinez also acknowledged that Fitial is the more experi-

enced fighter and although he is the current PXC champ, he said he is entering this bout with an underdog mentality.

"I don't think my impressive record at home will play a factor at all. Look at Kelvin's MMA record, he has a lot more fights than me," admitted Martinez.

Fitial is on a five-bout winning streak since July 2009, while Martinez is trying to bounce back from a pair of international losses in just over a year's time.

MINOR

From Page 28

Kristen McSweeney and Katerina Valos. The seeded players eventually won, 8-4, ending Minor and Ludwig's winning run. Maddison Gregor and Emily Ryan ruled the U16 doubles, beating Valos and McSweeney in the finals, 8-3.

Minor also played in the U16 singles and advanced to the finals of the consolation draw. She won her first game in the main draw against New Caledonia's Yaelle Honakoko, 6-3, 6-4, before losing to top seed Gregor in the second round, 6-7, 0-6.

In the consolation draw, Mi-

nor prevailed over Samuelle Bull (walkover), Claudia Hartford-Love, 6-3, 6-2, and Emily Ryan, 9-7, to gain a finals berth. In the finals, Minor was pitted against Curtis-McDonald and the CNMI netter lost, 6-8.

Though she had already completed her tournaments in Australia, Minor is still in the Land Down Under. She returned to Melbourne last Monday after the tournament in Victoria to watch a couple of games in the 2011 Australian Open.

Minor, who also participated in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Victoria and the 2011 Post Margaret Court Cup in Albury, New South Wales, will return to Saipan on Jan. 23.

TRIATHLON

From Page 27

to the one used during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau with athletes competing in the 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike, and 5-km run race. The Olympic course is longer and consists of 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run leg.

The CNMI ruled the triathlon competition in the 2010 Palau Micronesian Games with Miekio Carey, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, and Michael Mancao comprising the team. How-

ever, the Commonwealth did not send any delegates to the previous Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa in 2007.

The last time the CNMI had representatives in the triathlon competition of the Pacific Games was in 2003 when Fiji hosted the quadrennial event. The six-man contingent was composed of Dirk Sharer, Stephan Samoyloff, Peter Sinclair, Kathryn Sinclair, Vanessa Ince, and Anneka Sakovich. Jean Sakovich was the team's coach. Anneka Sakovich, Samoyloff, and Sharer won a bronze medal in the relay event.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	9	.775	—
New York	22	18	.550	9
Philadelphia	17	23	.425	14
Toronto	13	28	.317	18 1/2
New Jersey	10	31	.244	21 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	30	12	.714	—
Atlanta	27	15	.643	3
Orlando	26	15	.634	3 1/2
Charlotte	15	24	.385	13 1/2
Washington	12	27	.308	16 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	28	13	.683	—
Indiana	16	22	.421	10 1/2
Milwaukee	14	24	.368	12 1/2
Detroit	15	26	.366	13
Cleveland	8	32	.200	19 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	6	.854	—
Dallas	26	14	.650	8 1/2
New Orleans	26	16	.619	9 1/2
Memphis	19	22	.463	16
Houston	19	23	.452	16 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	27	14	.659	—
Utah	27	14	.659	—
Denver	23	17	.575	3 1/2
Portland	22	20	.524	5 1/2
Minnesota	10	32	.238	17 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	31	12	.721	—
Phoenix	18	21	.462	11
Golden State	17	23	.425	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	15	25	.375	14 1/2
Sacramento	9	30	.231	20

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 96, Memphis 84	
Phoenix 129, New York 121	
Washington 108, Utah 101	
Philadelphia 96, Charlotte 92, OT	
Houston 93, Milwaukee 84	
New Orleans 85, Toronto 81	
L.A. Clippers 114, Indiana 107	
Detroit 103, Dallas 89	
Golden State 109, New Jersey 100	
Atlanta 100, Sacramento 98	
Boston 109, Orlando 106	
Portland 113, Minnesota 102	
L.A. Lakers 101, Oklahoma City 94	

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	36	341	281	1026	28.5

Stoudemire, NYK	39	376	255	1015	26.0
Ellis, GOL	39	372	188	1001	25.7
James, MIA	40	347	266	1015	25.4
Bryant, LAL	42	371	264	1063	25.3
Wade, MIA	40	349	268	1003	25.1
Rose, CHI	39	352	189	956	24.5
Gordon, LAC	37	298	222	884	23.9
Nowitzki, DAL	30	262	155	707	23.6
Anthony, DEN	33	267	211	763	23.1
Martin, HOU	39	260	290	895	22.9
Westbrook, OKC	40	301	273	886	22.2
Bargnani, TOR	34	286	135	749	22.0
Williams, UTA	40	279	252	880	22.0
Griffin, LAC	39	327	196	854	21.9
Howard, ORL	38	288	249	825	21.7
Love, MIN	41	292	227	870	21.2
Gay, MEM	38	307	136	798	21.0
Granger, IND	36	263	150	752	20.9
Beasley, MIN	37	310	118	772	20.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	196	307	.638
Okafor, NOR	179	302	.593
Howard, ORL	288	507	.568
Horford, ATL	290	511	.568
Odom, LAL	260	459	.566
Ibaka, OKC	162	286	.566
Boozier, CHI	207	370	.559
Millsap, UTA	275	503	.547
Young, PHL	191	352	.543
Nowitzki, DAL	262	484	.541

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	41	197	445	642	15.7
Howard, ORL	38	140	365	505	13.3
Randolph, MEM	36	163	308	471	13.1
Griffin, LAC	39	149	348	497	12.7
Camby, POR	38	130	309	439	11.6
Gasol, LAL	42	149	304	453	10.8
Okafor, NOR	41	119	299	418	10.2
Horford, ATL	41	103	296	399	9.7
Odom, LAL	42	99	304	403	9.6
Duncan, SAN	41	109	280	389	9.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	28	375	13.4
Nash, PHX	36	389	10.8
Paul, NOR	41	394	9.6
Williams, UTA	40	376	9.4
Wall, WAS	26	321	8.9
Felton, NYK	39	344	8.8
Kidd, DAL	39	326	8.4
Calderson, TOR	34	282	8.3
Westbrook, OKC	40	331	8.3
Rose, CHI	39	312	8.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FITIAL

From Page 28

the first guy to put him in the cage and for giving him his fight name."

He also took the opportunity to give a shout out to his boys at Marianas Elite for sticking with him to the end. "Let's start this year off with a bang," said Fitial.

Martinez, for his part, told Fitial to prepare himself for a tough fight when both protagon-

March in CNMI is for runners, triathletes



International runners and triathletes looking for winter training grounds will find back-to-back-to-back weekends of events in March 2011 in tropical Saipan.

The 6th Annual Saipan Marathon will kick off events on March 5 with a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195 kilometers), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km), and a 10K (6.2 miles). The marathon attracted nearly 600 participants in 2010 from Japan, Korea, Guam, and the Northern Marianas and is expected to draw hundreds more in 2011. This year the event also joins the ranks of the prestigious Japan-based Earth Marathon group.

On March 12, 2011, the XTERRA Saipan Champion-



The husband-and-wife tandem of Brady and Noelle Bussler keep their pace in the half-marathon leg of the 5th Saipan Marathon in the Northern Mariana Islands. The 6th Saipan Marathon will be held on March 5, 2011, as part of three consecutive weekends of races on Saipan.

ship makes its 10th annual run, featuring a 1.5-km swim, 30-km mountain bike race, and 12-km trail run. The event, dubbed the Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Tour, will highlight the warm waters, pristine jungles, and picturesque coastal roadways of the island. For those eyeing a shorter course, the XTERRA Sunset Trail Run will be held on March 11 at 5pm.

The last weekend of March will test the will of triathletes in the annual Tagaman triathlon, named for the legendary Chamorro chief who was fabled to have ripped a coconut tree from its roots in his youth. The Tagaman will feature a 2-km swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run.

"The Northern Marianas has a number of premiere sporting events year round, and March is definitely the prime month for runners and triathletes in

Saipan," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Anyone looking for a chance to just escape to paradise, but still compete or train, shouldn't miss this excellent opportunity."

For more information about the Saipan Marathon, visit the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com, or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. The registration deadline for the Saipan Marathon is Feb. 18 with early bird rates up until Feb. 10.

For more information about the XTERRA Saipan Championship, XTERRA Sunset Trail Run, or Tagaman, visit the official website at www.saipansports.com. Registration deadlines are March 9 for XTERRA Saipan Championship and XTERRA Saipan Trail Run and March 16 for Tagaman. (MVA)

Pacific Games beach v-ball qualifier starts Sunday

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



About eight to 10 teams are expected to participate in the first phase of Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's CNMI Beach Volleyball National Team Qualifier Series this Sunday at Pacific Islands Club.

Registration starts at 8am that morning and games will begin at 9am; the event should wrap up around 5pm.

Teams will play in a double-elimination format. Additional information regarding practices, training, coaches, etc. will also be shared at this event.

Each qualifier will have a \$10 entrance fee for members and a \$15 fee for non-members to participate. Individuals

who want to be considered for the national team must also pay the annual \$20 NMIVA membership fee.

"As in the past NMIVA will use the qualifier series as a fundraiser with proceeds going toward costs associated with sending teams to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia from Aug. 27 to Sept. 9," said NMIVA president Laurie Peterka.

The qualifier series consists of five events in total. Three will take place at PIC. After Sunday's series opener the remaining PIC qualifiers will take place on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Another qualifier is designated for Hyatt Regency Saipan's "For the Love of Volleyball" event on Feb. 12 and the series finale takes place during the 19th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball

Festival held at Fiesta Resort & Spa from Feb. 24 to 27.

Throughout the series teams will have the opportunity to score points toward qualifying for the CNMI National Team.

NMIVA vice president Gabriel White suggests that teams should try to stick together as much as possible during the series, although players will be scored both as a team and on an individual basis.

The Top 2 scorers of both men's and women's divisions will be given priority by the selection committee to represent the CNMI in select international events throughout 2011 such as CNMI's first-ever Asian Volleyball Confederation Subzonal Olympic Qualifying Event scheduled from March 3 to 6. This event will conclude the qualification period; final selections will be confirmed in last

the week of March.

Players who want to compete for a spot on the team must meet the required Athlete Selection Criteria.

"We have established our criteria based on guidance from the Federation Internationale de Volleyball, the Asian Volleyball Confederation and the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association. If interested players need assistance in determining their eligibility, we are here to help," said White.

Please visit www.nmivolleyball.org for more information.

The last Pacific Games was held in Samoa in 2007. Under CNMI National team coach Russ Quinn, Saipan's Tyce Mister and Mark McDonald represented the CNMI men's division, while Melissa Halaby and Nina Mosely competed in the women's division.



Taylor Watanabe, right, and Simeon Kapileo pose for a photo after winning the Thursday 9-ball crown at USS Peleliu Club last week.

Guam's Jones wins Bud Light Marianas Shootout

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Guam Electronic Dart Association's No. 1 player Elijah Jones defeated Saipan Electronic Dart Association top shooter Jun Olita, 10-7, in the first-ever Bud Light GEDA/SEDA Marianas Shootout held after the conclusion of SEDA's awards ceremony last Sunday in Charlie's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

While Olita acknowledged a lack of practice for nearly two months, Jones actually claimed to be a steel tip dart player without his own set of soft tip darts. Jones also said he did not sleep well coming into game day.

SEDA sanctioned the maiden event and league general manager Jim Gebhard was on hand to present Jones with the trophy along with a \$200 cash prize.

"We were very pleased overall



Bud Light SEDA/GEDA Marianas Shootout Champion Elijah Jones, left, accepts his trophy and \$200 cash prize from Pacific Amusement, Inc. general manager Jim Gebhard last Sunday at Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret.

with the execution of the event. Olita put up a good fight and it almost went down to the final wire. It showed that both organizations feature players with real talent and skill," said SEDA acting secretary Warlee Ellama.

Ellama also expressed hopes to co-sanction the event back and forth every year with GEDA. Pacific Amusement sponsored Jones' airfare and hotel stay for this year's competition.

The format of the event en-

tailed a race to 10 out of 19 games. Players competed in 10 different contests including pairs of 501, random cricket, half-it, air attack, and thin ice along with four total games of 301 and regular cricket mixed in with the exhibition leading up to a finale 1001 cherry match.

At the start of the duel, both players split a game of cricket and then Jones swept a pair of 301 contests. Olita answered and took both random cricket matches, but Jones roared back and caught a five-game streak. He won both half-it games, both 501 matches, and won the first game of air attack that built his lead to 8-3.

Olita tried to mount a comeback and won four of the next five games. After he took the second game of air attack, he swept both thin ice contests before each player won a 301 match.

It was game-point, 9-7, in favor of Jones with a pair of regular cricket games on tap. Jones came out on top of the first game for the impressive road victory.

Rolly wins 8-ball; two share 9-ball crown



Rolly Villanueva sailed through Sunday's 8-ball tournament at USS Peleliu Club, with Taylor Watanabe and Simeon Kapileo sharing the Thursday 9-ball crown.

Villanueva rolled through Ken Phillips, Watanabe, and Rose Phillips to top the winners bracket. Watanabe had defeated Ben Castro, while Rose Phillips sent Brenda Rideb and Fred Ngirmekur to the losers bracket.

Ken Phillips got by Castro, but fell to Ngirmekur. Watanabe eliminated Rideb and Ngirmekur, but couldn't get past Rose Phillips.

Rose Phillips kept it close in her rematch with Villanueva, then lost the game and match by pocketing the 8-ball and the cue ball on the same shot.

Watanabe celebrated his birthday Thursday with a potluck party and half of the pot.

All of the players face off in the 9-ball challenge, with first and second place money going to the competitors with the most wins.

Watanabe and Kapileo tied for first, with each taking one game in their head-to-head match.

Annie Tesiro and John Mongami were a game back, followed by Konrad Reyes, Nizer Masayos, Ken Phillips, Ron Chisato, and Glenn Rios.

The Thursday and Sunday tournaments are scheduled to begin at 8pm, with sign-up and practice starting at 7pm.

The Thursday 9-ball contest is round-robin competition, while the Sunday tournament is double-elimination 8-ball.

Photos of the games will be posted at USS Peleliu Club's Facebook page.

All games are played following BCA rules. For more information, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. (USSP)

Clippers beat
Pacers; Griffin
scores 47

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March in CNMI
is for runners,
triathletes

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mobil outlasts IP&E Konflikt in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The opening day of the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League had a dramatic ending with Mobil pulling off a 90-88 overtime victory over corporate rival IP&E Konflikt last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

UBA Bon Tamayo drilled all his four points in the extension period, including the game-winning jumper to give Mobil a winning debut in the nine-team league.

Mobil had a chance to prevail in regulation when Jorge De Guzman was fouled with .3 of a second left in the match and IP&E Konflikt ahead, 80-81. De Guzman drew high-fives from his teammates after making the first free throw, but the celebration was too early, as he missed the second one, sending the game into overtime.

In the extra period, IP&E Konflikt scored the first basket off Brendon Talania's jumper then Pando Muleta canned two charities to tie the match anew. Consecutive Mobil misses allowed IP&E to lead by five, 88-83, after Elmer Esdrelon hit a triple, with less than three minutes left in the game.

However, IP&E lost the lead and the game, as it failed to make a shot after Esdrelon's triple. A step-back trey from

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil's Jun Estolas drives and draws a foul on IP&E Konflikt's Edwin Santos during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fital leaves for PXC title bout



Fital



Martinez

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital hopped on a flight to Guam today a couple of days in advance of his title bout against Pacific Xtreme Combat's heavyweight champion Roke Martinez.

Fital, fighting out of Marianas Elite, will take on the Spike 22 Fight Team brawler in PXC Combat 22: Battle For The Belt set this Friday, Jan. 21, at the University of Guam Field House.

Last weekend, family and friends held a "send-off" party at GIG Discotheque to wish Fital good luck in his

bout against Martinez.

"I want to thank my mom (Betty Miller), Teresa Miller, and the family for being there and cheering for me when I win or lose...I love you. I also want to thank the fans for your support and everything you've done for me," said Fital. "I want to take this time to thank my friends for being there when I'm down and when I'm up, GIG for throwing me a loud party and wishing me farewell."

Fital also thanked his trainer and good friend Lionel Borja, photographer Nate Torres and NB Photography for taking pictures during the party, Saipan Apparel for designing his new "Big Hit" T-shirts, and Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez for being

See **FITAL** on Page 26

Minor marches to doubles semis in Australia



Thea Minor, seen here returning a shot in a local competition, made it to the semifinals of her last tournament in Australia. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor made it to the Final Four round in her last tournament in Australia.

The 15-year-old netter marched to the semifinals of the U16 doubles event in the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria last Sunday after winning two games in a row.

Minor teamed up with California's Sabine Ludwig and won over Tarani Kamoe and Annie Shannon via walk-over last Saturday. The victory allowed Minor and Ludwig to advance to the quarterfinals where they were pitted against fourth-seeded Eliza Benson and Hope Curtis-McDonald.

The CNMI netter and her teammate went on to beat their seeded foes, 8-6, to make it to the semifinals. In the semis last Sunday, Minor and Ludwig also faced ranked opponents—No. 2

See **MINOR** on Page 26

Triathlon group weighs interest in Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Adventure Sports Club is gauging the interest of local triathletes in competing in the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia this year.

In the club's unofficial group site, SASC official Russ Quinn asked individuals to inform the association before this Friday if they are interested in representing the CNMI to the quadrennial meet.

"If we are going to send a team, I need to know if there is interest. We are already behind the ball on this, so we need to know before Friday," Quinn said in his message posted in the club's unofficial site.

The Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10, but participating countries must confirm their participation in the event months before it kicks off.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, which is tasked to form Team Marianas to the Pacific Games, has yet to set the deadline for confirmation to the Games, but payments for the New Caledonia trip had already started in January.

From January to April, each delegate must pay \$360 for the cost of the trip. NMASA estimated the total cost per each delegate at \$2,200, but each participant will only pay \$1,800, as the association will shoulder the remaining \$400. The cost per athlete could still go down provided Team Marianas will

get financial assistance from the government.

Triathlon is one of the 28 sports that will be played in the 15-day event.

The tournament committee has yet to decide on the course for the triathlon competition, but there will be only two options—the sprint and the Olympic course. The sprint course is similar

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RELATED NEWS

■ Pacific Games beach v-ball qualifier starts Sunday

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